AN ACT
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

Introduced By: Representatives Place, Quattrocchi, and Newberry

Date Introduced: May 05, 2021

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 95
COVID-19 VACCINATION NOT REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO STATE OR PRIVATE BUSINESSES ACT

23-95-1. Findings.
(a) The general assembly finds that on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern.
(b) On March 9, 2020, the governor of the State of Rhode Island issued a declaration of emergency and over the course of several months issued numerous continuations of that declaration of emergency.
(c) The declaration of emergency ordered the closure of businesses, parks, and even private businesses, with the result of restricting the populace's freedoms.
(d) The legislature finds that the re-opening of businesses is vital to the state's economy and that access to said businesses, and public buildings, is paramount to a free society and the re-normalization of human interaction.
(e) The legislature further finds that every citizen of the State of Rhode Island is protected and has the right to confidentiality of their health care records pursuant to chapter 37.3 of title 5.
(f) Additionally, each and every citizen is protected by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Rhode Island to make their own health care decisions. Decisions that have been upheld and reaffirmed by our United States Supreme Court and the supreme court of the State of Rhode Island.

23-95-2. Access to public buildings and private enterprises not to be denied.

(a) Neither the state, nor any of its agencies, nor any city or town or any political subdivisions, nor any private business, tavern, hotel, motel, or any other business or business organization operating in the state of Rhode Island, or any college or university in this state, shall require proof of a COVID-19 vaccination before allowing entry of any individual into their building, business, or on their premises, whether inside or outside, or for any other purpose.

(b) The director of the department of business regulation and the licensing authorities of the several cities and towns are hereby authorized to deny or revoke any business operating license to any business violating this chapter.

(c) Nothing contained herein prevents a person denied access to any public building or private business from seeking civil damages and injunctive relief against any public or private business that violates this chapter.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
This act would prohibit state, municipal agencies and any political subdivisions thereof and private businesses from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccine before permitting any individual from entering the building or business. Licensing authorities would be permitted to deny and/or revoke business operating licenses of violators.

This act would take effect upon passage.