

2021 -- H 6302

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

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:

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

3 CHAPTER 95

4 COVID-19 VACCINATION NOT REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO STATE OR PRIVATE

5 BUSINESSES ACT

6 **23-95-1. Findings.**

7 (a) The general assembly finds that on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization
8 designated the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a public health emergency of
9 international concern.

10 (b) On March 9, 2020, the governor of the State of Rhode Island issued a declaration of
11 emergency and over the course of several months issued numerous continuations of that declaration
12 of emergency.

13 (c) The declaration of emergency ordered the closure of businesses, parks, and even private
14 businesses, with the result of restricting the populace's freedoms.

15 (d) The legislature finds that the re-opening of businesses is vital to the state's economy
16 and that access to said businesses, and public buildings, is paramount to a free society and the re-
17 normalization of human interaction.

18 (e) The legislature further finds that every citizen of the State of Rhode Island is protected
19 and has the right to confidentiality of their health care records pursuant to chapter 37.3 of title 5.

1 (f) Additionally, each and every citizen is protected by the United States Constitution and
2 the Constitution of Rhode Island to make their own health care decisions. Decisions that have been
3 upheld and reaffirmed by our United States Supreme Court and the supreme court of the State of
4 Rhode Island.

5 **23-95-2. Access to public buildings and private enterprises not to be denied.**

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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