A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to COVID-19 vaccine mandates and the application of COVID-19 vaccine exemptions to certain employees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0015 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.0015. COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES AND EXEMPTIONS.
(a) In this section, "governmental entity" means this state, a local government entity as defined by Section 418.004, Government Code, or an agency of this state or a local government entity.
(b) A governmental entity may not implement, order, or otherwise impose a mandate requiring an individual, other than an employee of the governmental entity, to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
(c) A governmental entity shall not deny an employee of the governmental entity an exemption from a required COVID-19 vaccination based on a medical condition or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief.
(d) An individual or employee who is the subject of a violation of Subsection (b) or (c), as applicable, may bring an action in a district court in the county in which the violation occurred for injunctive relief to prevent further violation of the applicable subsection.
(e) A claimant may recover reasonable expenses incurred in
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1 bringing an action under Subsection (d), including court costs,
2 attorney's fees, investigation costs, witness fees, and deposition
3 expenses.
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5 SECTION 2. Section 161.0015, Health and Safety Code, as
6 added by this Act, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after
7 the effective date of this Act.
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9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.