

By: Hall

S.B. No. 98

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

1 bringing an action under Subsection (d), including court costs,
2 attorney's fees, investigation costs, witness fees, and deposition
3 expenses.

4 SECTION 2. Section 161.0015, Health and Safety Code, as
5 added by this Act, applies only to conduct that occurs on or after
6 the effective date of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.