By:  Slaton H.B. No. 33

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a prohibition on certain companies and hospitals from requiring employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccination; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle A, Title 2, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 24 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 24. CERTAIN EMPLOYER-REQUIRED VACCINATIONS PROHIBITED

Sec. 24.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Company" has the meaning assigned by Section 808.001, Government Code.

(2)  "COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

(3)  "Hospital" means a health facility that is licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code.

(4)  "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization that:

(A)  is issued by a state agency or political subdivision; and

(B)  a company must obtain to engage in a particular business or occupation.

(5)  "Political subdivision" means a county, municipality, school district, special purpose district, or other subdivision of state government that has jurisdiction limited to a geographic portion of the state.

(6)  "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 609.001, Government Code.

Sec. 24.002.  OFFENSE; PENALTIES. (a) A company or hospital commits an offense if the company or hospital requires, as a condition of employment, an employee to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

(b)  Each employee required to receive a vaccination is a separate offense under Subsection (a).

(c)  An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d)  Notwithstanding any other law, a company that is convicted of an offense under this section is not eligible to hold a license until the fifth anniversary of the date of the conviction. A state agency or political subdivision shall revoke a license issued to a company that is ineligible to hold the license under this subsection.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.