

By: Harrison

H.B. No. 22

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority to suspend entry into this state of certain persons.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Texas Title 42 Act.

SECTION 2. Subtitle D, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 81B to read as follows:

Chapter 81B. Suspension of entry of persons from designated places to prevent spread of communicable diseases

Sec. 81B.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

(2) "Federally declared public health emergency" means:

(A) a public health emergency declared by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. Section 247d; or

(B) an emergency or disaster declared, including under a renewal of the declaration, by the president of the United States in relation to a public health emergency described by Paragraph (A) under:

(i) the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. Section 1601 et seq.); or

1 (ii) the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
2 and Emergency Assistant Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.).

3 (3) "Port of entry" means a port of entry in the United
4 States, as defined by part 101 of the customs regulations (19 CFR
5 part 101).

6 (4) "Person" means any individual other than (i) one
7 described in the first sentence of section 1 of the Fourteenth
8 Amendment to the United States Constitution or (ii) one described
9 in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20).

10 Sec. 81B.002. SUSPENSION OF ENTRY. (a) During any of the
11 following, all persons entering Texas by land from another country
12 must pass through a legal port of entry for appropriate medical
13 review:

14 (1) the pendency of any federally declared public
15 health emergency for COVID-19,

16 (2) at any time which the federal government has in
17 place any vaccination requirements for any person lawfully residing
18 in the United States, including but not limited to government
19 contractors or healthcare workers, for the purposes of preventing
20 the spread of COVID-19 in the United States,

21 (3) at any time which the U.S. Department of State has
22 travel warnings for health for any country from which citizens have
23 illegally entered the United States during the most recent year for
24 which there is available data; or

25 (4) the period the COVID-19 vaccine is listed on the
26 recommended child and adolescent immunization schedule published
27 by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

1 (b) Any person who enters the State of Texas from a foreign
2 country other than in accordance with subsection (a) of this
3 section, shall be removed to the country from which they entered the
4 United States, or their country of origin, or another location as
5 practicable, as rapidly as possible, with as little time spent in
6 congregate settings as practicable under the circumstances.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
12 legislative session.