By: Springer, Hall S.B. No. 403

(In the Senate - Filed January 12, 2023; February 15, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services; April 19, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
Kolkhorst	X			
Perry	X			
Blanco	X			
Hall	X			
Hancock	X			
Hughes	X			
LaMantia	X			
Miles	X			
Sparks	X			

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 403 By: Perry

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to a study on the adverse reactions and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Center" means The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

(2) "COVID-19" means the disease associated with exposure from:

(A) the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including any variants of the virus; or

(B) a COVID-19 vaccine injection.

(3) "Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(4) "Vaccine" means a substance used to stimulate immunity to a particular infectious disease or pathogen.

SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The department, in collaboration with the center, shall conduct a study to assess the full scope of adverse reactions, including death, and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines used in this state.

(b) In conducting the study, the department shall compile information regarding:

(1) the immediate short-term side effects and adverse reactions experienced by vaccine recipients, including:

(A) pain, swelling, or redness at the vaccine injection site;

(B) mild fever;

(C) chills;

(D) tiredness;

(E) headache; and

(F) muscle or joint aches;

(2) the immediate serious side effects and adverse reactions experienced by vaccine recipients, including:

(A) difficulty breathing;

(B) swelling of the face or throat;

(C) accelerated heartbeat;

(D) body rash;

(E) dizziness; and

(F) weakness;

(3) the long-term side effects and adverse reactions experienced by vaccine recipients, including:

(A) paralysis;
(B) myocarditis;
(C) clotting disorders;
(D) thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome;
(E) Guillain-Barré syndrome;
(F) difficulty thinking or brain fog;
(G) chronic pain;
(H) tiredness or fatigue;
(I) loss of taste;
(J) depression;
(K) anxiety; and
(L) death; and

(4) any misrepresentation or concealment regarding the efficacy or dangers of vaccination by the vaccine manufacturer or a governmental agency.

(c) In conducting the study, the department and the center shall compile and make available information described by Subsection (b) of this section, including information collected by:

(1) the department, including information collected by the department's vital statistics unit, and center;

(2) hospitals or treatment centers;

(3) any available survey;

(4) public hearings that involve health care providers, researchers, injured patients, or the families of injured patients speaking on COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccine experiences, including difficulties prescribing or filling therapeutic prescriptions and difficulties encountered in hospitals or with any medical boards; and

(5) any other relevant source, including the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Defense Medical Epidemiology Database maintained for the United States Department of Defense.

SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than January 1, 2024, the department shall prepare and submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and chairpersons of legislative standing committees with jurisdiction over health and safety a written report summarizing the information compiled in the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 vaccine side effects. The department may make the report available to the public and post the report on the department's Internet website.

SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

* * * * *