

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1511**

Introduced by

Representatives Weisz, Becker, Devlin, Lefor, Meier, Paulson, Porter, Schauer

Senators Lee, Wardner

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 34-03 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to employer-required COVID-19 vaccinations; to amend and reenact
3 sections 23-01-05.3 and 23-12-20 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to vaccine
4 passports and limitations on requiring documentation of COVID-19 vaccinations, antibodies,
5 and post-transmission recovery status; to repeal section 23-12-20 of the North Dakota Century
6 Code and section 2 of this Act, relating to limitations on requiring documentation of COVID-19
7 vaccinations, antibodies, and post-transmission recovery status and employer-required
8 COVID-19 vaccinations; and to provide an effective date.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

10 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-01-05.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **23-01-05.3. Immunization data. (Effective through August 31, 2022)**

- 13 1. The state department of health may establish an immunization information system and
14 may require the childhood immunizations specified in subsection 1 of section
15 23-07-17.1 and other information be reported to the department. The state department
16 of health may only require the reporting of childhood immunizations and other data
17 upon completion of the immunization information reporting system. A health care
18 provider who administers a childhood immunization shall report the patient's
19 identifying information, the immunization that is administered, and other required
20 information to the department. The report must be submitted using electronic media,
21 and must contain the data content and use the format and codes specified by the
22 department.
- 23 2. If a health care provider fails to submit an immunization report required under this
24 section within four weeks of vaccination:

- 1 a. That health care provider may not order or receive any vaccine from the North
2 Dakota immunization program until that provider submits all reports required
3 under this section.
- 4 b. The state department of health shall make a report to that health care provider's
5 occupational licensing entity outlining that provider's failure to comply with the
6 reporting requirements under this section.
- 7 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care provider, elementary or
8 secondary school, early childhood facility, public or private postsecondary educational
9 institution, city or county board of health, district health unit, and the state health officer
10 may exchange immunization data in any manner with one another. Immunization data
11 that may be exchanged under this section is limited to the date and type of
12 immunization administered to a patient and may be exchanged regardless of the date
13 of the immunization.
- 14 4. The state department of health may not create, administer, provide, or contract for
15 electronic machine-readable code or a vaccine passport.

16 **Immunization data. (Effective after August 31, 2022)**

- 17 1. The department of health and human services may establish an immunization
18 information system and may require the childhood immunizations specified in
19 subsection 1 of section 23-07-17.1 and other information be reported to the
20 department. The department of health and human services may only require the
21 reporting of childhood immunizations and other data upon completion of the
22 immunization information reporting system. A health care provider who administers a
23 childhood immunization shall report the patient's identifying information, the
24 immunization that is administered, and other required information to the department.
25 The report must be submitted using electronic media, and must contain the data
26 content and use the format and codes specified by the department.
- 27 2. If a health care provider fails to submit an immunization report required under this
28 section within four weeks of vaccination:
 - 29 a. That health care provider may not order or receive any vaccine from the North
30 Dakota immunization program until that provider submits all reports required
31 under this section.

- 1 b. The department of health and human services shall make a report to that health
2 care provider's occupational licensing entity outlining that provider's failure to
3 comply with the reporting requirements under this section.
- 4 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care provider, elementary or
5 secondary school, early childhood facility, public or private postsecondary educational
6 institution, city or county board of health, district health unit, and the state health officer
7 may exchange immunization data in any manner with one another. Immunization data
8 that may be exchanged under this section is limited to the date and type of
9 immunization administered to a patient and may be exchanged regardless of the date
10 of the immunization.
- 11 4. The department of health and human services may not create, administer, provide, or
12 contract for electronic machine-readable code or a vaccine passport.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-12-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **23-12-20. ~~Vaccine~~COVID-19 vaccination and infection information.**

- 16 1. ~~Except as provided under sections 15.1-23-02, 23-01-05.3, and 23-07-17.1,~~
17 ~~neither~~Neither a state government entity nor any of its political subdivisions, agents, or
18 assigns may:
- 19 a. Require documentation, whether physical or electronic, for the purpose of
20 certifying or otherwise communicating the following before providing access to
21 state property, funds, or services:
- 22 (1) An individual's COVID-19 vaccination status;
- 23 (2) The presence of COVID-19 pathogens, antigens, or antibodies; or
- 24 (3) An individual's COVID-19 post-transmission recovery status;
- 25 b. Otherwise publish or share an individual's COVID-19 vaccination record or similar
26 health information, except as specifically authorized by the individual or otherwise
27 authorized by statute; or
- 28 c. Require a private business to obtain documentation, whether physical or
29 electronic, for purposes of certifying or otherwise communicating the following
30 before employment or providing access to property, funds, or services based on:
- 31 (1) An individual's COVID-19 vaccination status;

1 (2) The presence of COVID-19 pathogens, antigens, or antibodies; or

2 (3) An individual's COVID-19 post-transmission recovery status.

3 2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the department of corrections and rehabilitation, a
4 correctional facility as defined under section 12-44.1-01, the state hospital, or a public
5 health unit.

6 3. A private business located in this state or doing business in this state may not require
7 a patron, client, or customer in this state to provide any documentation certifying
8 COVID-19 vaccination, the presence of COVID-19 pathogens, antigens, or antibodies,
9 or COVID-19 post-transmission recovery to gain access to, entry upon, or services
10 from the business. This subsection does not apply to a developmental disability
11 residential facility or a health care provider, including a long-term care provider, basic
12 care provider, and assisted living provider. As used in this subsection, a private
13 business does not include a nonprofit entity that does not sell a product or a service.

14 ~~3.4.~~ This section may not be construed to interfere with an individual's rights to access that
15 individual's own personal health information or with a person's right to access personal
16 health information of others which the person otherwise has a right to access.

17 ~~4.5.~~ Subsection 1 is not applicable to the state board of higher education, the university
18 system, or institutions under the control of the state board of higher education to the
19 extent the entity has adopted policies and procedures governing the type of
20 documentation required, the circumstances under which such documentation may be
21 shared, and exemptions from providing such documentation.

22 ~~5.6.~~ This section is not applicable during a public health disaster or emergency declared in
23 accordance with chapter 37-17.1.

24 ~~6.~~ ~~This section is limited in application to a vaccination authorized by the federal food and~~
25 ~~drug administration pursuant to an emergency use authorization~~

26 7. As used in this section, the term "COVID-19" means severe acute respiratory
27 syndrome coronavirus 2 identified as SARS-CoV-2 and any mutation or viral
28 fragments of SARS-CoV-2.

29 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 34-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
30 and enacted as follows:

1 **COVID-19 vaccination requirements - Exemptions.**

2 1. As used in this section, the term "COVID-19" means severe acute respiratory
3 syndrome coronavirus 2 identified as SARS-CoV-2 and any mutation or viral
4 fragments of SARS-CoV-2.

5 2. If an employer or contractor requires an employee, prospective employee, or
6 independent contractor in this state to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition
7 of employment or a term of a contract:

8 a. The employer or contractor shall allow the employee, prospective employee, or
9 independent contractor to submit proof of COVID-19 antibodies as an exemption
10 to the vaccination requirement. Such proof is valid for six months from the date of
11 the antibody test.

12 b. The employer or contractor shall allow the employee, prospective employee, or
13 independent contractor to submit to periodic COVID-19 tests as an exemption to
14 the vaccination requirement.

15 c. The employer or contractor shall allow the employee, prospective employee, or
16 independent contractor to submit one of the following certificates as an
17 exemption to the vaccination requirement:

18 (1) A certificate from a North Dakota licensed physician, physician assistant, or
19 advanced practice registered nurse stating the physical condition of the
20 employee, prospective employee, or independent contractor is such that
21 immunization would endanger the life or health of the employee, prospective
22 employee, or independent contractor; or

23 (2) A certificate signed by the employee, prospective employee, or independent
24 contractor stating the employee's, prospective employee's, or independent
25 contractor's religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs are opposed to such
26 immunization.

27 3. This section does not apply to the extent an employer or an independent contractor is
28 required to comply with federal law, rules, or guidance relating to requirements for
29 vaccinations for COVID-19 or resulting from Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations,
30 part 416 et seq. [86 FR 61555 et seq. (2021)]; Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations,
31 part 1910 et seq. [86 FR 61555 et seq. (2021)]; or the presidential executive order on

1 ensuring adequate COVID safety protocols for federal contractors, issued
2 September 9, 2021.

3 **SECTION 4. REPEAL.** Section 23-12-20 of the North Dakota Century Code and section 3
4 of this Act are repealed.

5 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** Section 4 of this Act becomes effective August 1, 2023.
6 The remainder of this Act becomes effective upon its filing with the secretary of state.