

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29094 / #billnum

This is a civil rights bill with a sovereign legal defense fund created in the state treasury to be continuously appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives for necessary legal expenses of the Legislature defending the sovereign power of the state of Idaho against any incursion by the federal government. This bill amends Idaho Code Chapter 59, Title 67 by the addition of a new section which will prohibit certain acts of discrimination based on immunization status or the possession of an immunity passport. The bill makes it unlawful for state and local governments to withhold or deny any person local or state government services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, education, health care access, or employment opportunities. It also makes it unlawful for any employer to refuse employment or discriminate in any way based on immunity passport or vaccination status.

Public accommodations may not exclude or refuse to serve a person based on vaccination status.

A health care facility is allowed to make reasonable accommodation measures for an unvaccinated employee for health and safety reasons, but not to deny employment.

The bill exempts schools and daycares pursuant to existing Idaho statutes. Licensed nursing homes are exempt only if compliance would violate regulations from Medicare and Medicaid services.

## FISCAL NOTE

This bill may impact the general fund in an unspecified amount to be appropriated by the state legislature for necessary legal expenses defending against incursions by the federal government on the sovereignty of Idaho., This bill will not have fiscal impact on local governments.

### Contact:

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**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).



LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO



Sixty-sixth Legislature

First Regular Session - 2021

IN THE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

AN ACT

RELATING TO IMMUNIZATIONS; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING SECTION 67-5902, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 59, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-5909B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF IMMUNIZATION STATUS OR THE POSSESSION OF AN IMMUNITY PASSPORT AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-451B, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE SOVEREIGN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The Legislature finds that President Joe Biden issued two executive orders mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for federal workers and contractors and has further unveiled new vaccination and testing requirements for health care providers and employers with 100 or more employees. The Biden Administration's vaccine mandate and its plan to fine certain employers who do not require their employees to be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing is an unconstitutional overreach of the power the several states entrusted to the central government under the principles of American federalism. It is the intent of the Legislature to protect and defend Idahoans from such overreach by the federal government and to defend the sovereignty of the State of Idaho against incursions by the federal government.

SECTION 2. That Section 67-5902, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

67-5902. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commission" means the commission on human rights created by this chapter.

(2) "Commissioner" means a member of the commission.

(3) "Discriminatory practice" means a practice designated as discriminatory under the terms of this chapter.

(4) "Immunity passport" means a document, digital record, or software application indicating that a person is immune to a disease as a result of a vaccine or infection and recovery.

(5) "Immunization status" means an indication of whether a person has received one (1) or more doses of a vaccine.

(6) "National origin" includes the national origin of an ancestor.

(57) "Person" includes an individual, association, corporation, joint apprenticeship committee, joint-stock company, labor union, legal repre-

1 tentative, mutual company, partnership, any other legal or commercial en-  
2 tity, the state, or any governmental entity or agency<sub>7</sub>.

3 (68) "Employer" means a person, wherever situated, who hires five (5)  
4 or more employees for each working day in each of twenty (20) or more calen-  
5 dar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year whose services are to be  
6 partially or wholly performed in the state of Idaho, except for domestic ser-  
7 vants hired to work in and about the person's household. The term also means:

8 (a) A person who as contractor or subcontractor is furnishing material  
9 or ~~performing work for~~ working in the state;

10 (b) Any agency of or any governmental entity within the state; and

11 (c) Any agent of such employer.

12 (79) "Employment agency" means a person regularly undertaking with or  
13 without compensation to procure employees for an employer or to procure for  
14 employees opportunities to work for an employer and includes an agent of such  
15 a person<sub>7</sub>.

16 (§10) "Labor organization" includes:

17 (a) An organization of any kind, an agency or employee representation  
18 committee, group, association, or plan in which employees participate  
19 and which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with  
20 employers concerning grievance, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay,  
21 hours, or other terms or conditions of employment;

22 (b) A conference, general committee, joint or system board, or joint  
23 council which is subordinate to a national or international labor or-  
24 ganization; or

25 (c) An agent of a labor organization.

26 (§11) "Place of public accommodation" means a business, accommodation,  
27 refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any  
28 kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privi-  
29 leges, advantages or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or other-  
30 wise made available to the public<sub>7</sub>.

31 (102) "Educational institution" means a public or private institution  
32 and includes an academy, college, elementary or secondary school, extension  
33 course, kindergarten, nursery, school system, or university and a business,  
34 nursing, professional, secretarial, technical, or vocational school and in-  
35 cludes an agent of an educational institution<sub>7</sub>.

36 (113) "Real property" includes buildings, structures, real estate,  
37 lands, tenements, leaseholds, interests in real estate cooperatives, con-  
38 dominiums, and hereditaments, corporeal and incorporeal or any interest  
39 therein<sub>7</sub>.

40 (124) "Real estate transaction" includes the sale, exchange, rental or  
41 lease of real property<sub>7</sub>.

42 (135) "Housing accommodation" includes any improved or unimproved real  
43 property, or part thereof, ~~which is used or occupied,~~ ~~or~~ as the home or resi-  
44 dence of one (1) or more individuals<sub>7</sub>.

45 (146) "Real estate broker or salesman" means a person, whether licensed  
46 or not, who, for or with the expectation of receiving a consideration, lists,  
47 sells, purchases, exchanges, rents, or leases real property, or who negoti-  
48 ates or attempts to negotiate any of these activities, or who holds himself  
49 out as engaged in these activities, or who negotiates or attempts to negoti-  
50 ate a loan secured or to be secured by mortgage or other encumbrance upon real

1 property, or who is engaged in the business of listing real property in a pub-  
2 lication; or a person employed by or acting on behalf of any of these+.

3 (157) "Disability" means a physical or mental condition of a person,  
4 whether congenital or acquired, which constitutes a substantial limitation  
5 to that person and is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or lab-  
6 oratory diagnostic techniques. A person with a disability is one who (a)  
7 has such a disability, or (b) has a record of such a disability, or (c) is  
8 regarded as having such a disability+.

9 (168) "Reasonable accommodation" means an adjustment which does not  
10 (a) unduly disrupt or interfere with the employer's normal operations, (b)  
11 threaten the health or safety of the person with the disability or others,  
12 (c) contradict a business necessity of the employer, or (d) impose undue  
13 hardship on the employer based on the size of the employer's business, the  
14 type of business, the financial resources, and the estimated cost and extent  
15 of the adjustment+.

16 (179) "Readily achievable" means easily accomplishable and able to be  
17 carried out without much difficulty or expense. In determining whether an  
18 action is readily achievable, factors to be considered include (a) the na-  
19 ture and cost of the action needed under this chapter, (b) the overall fi-  
20 nancial resources of the facility or facilities involved in the action, the  
21 number of persons employed at the facility, the effect on expenses and re-  
22 sources, or the impact otherwise of the action upon the operation of the fa-  
23 cility, (c) the overall financial resources of the covered entity, the over-  
24 all size of the business of a covered entity with respect to the number of its  
25 employees, the number, type, and location of its facilities, and (d) the type  
26 of operation or operations of the covered entity, including the composition,  
27 structure, and functions of the workforce of the entity, the geographic sep-  
28 arateness, administrative or fiscal relationship of the facility or facili-  
29 ties in question to the covered entity.

30 SECTION 3. That Chapter 59, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
31 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
32 ignated as Section 67-5909B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33 67-5909B. ACTS PROHIBITED -- DISCRIMINATION BASED ON IMMUNIZATION  
34 STATUS OR POSSESSION OF IMMUNITY PASSPORT. (1) Except as otherwise provided  
35 in this section, it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for:

36 (a) A person to refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any local or  
37 state government services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges,  
38 licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, contract  
39 work, or employment opportunities based on the person's immunization  
40 status or whether the person has an immunity passport;

41 (b) An employer to refuse employment to a person, to bar a person from  
42 employment, or to discriminate against a person as to compensation or as  
43 to a term, condition, or privilege of employment based on the person's  
44 immunization status or whether the person has an immunity passport; or

45 (c) A public accommodation to exclude, limit, segregate, refuse to  
46 serve, or otherwise discriminate against a person based on the person's  
47 immunization status or whether the person has an immunity passport.

48 (2) This section does not apply to immunization requirements for:

49 (a) Schools, as provided in chapter 48, title 39, Idaho Code;

1 (b) Day care facilities, as provided in chapter 11, title 39, Idaho  
2 Code; and

3 (c) Licensed nursing homes, long-term care facilities, or assisted  
4 living facilities during any period of time that compliance with  
5 subsection (1) of this section would result in a violation of the reg-  
6 ulations or guidance issued by the centers for medicare and medicaid  
7 services.

8 (3) (a) A person does not unlawfully discriminate under this section if  
9 the person recommends that an employee or contractor receive a vaccina-  
10 tion.

11 (b) A health care facility, as defined in section 48-303, Idaho Code,  
12 except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) (c) of this section, does  
13 not unlawfully discriminate under this section if both of the following  
14 requirements are met:

15 (i) The facility asks an employee or contractor to volunteer  
16 the person's immunization status for the purpose of determin-  
17 ing whether the health care facility should implement reasonable  
18 accommodation measures to protect the safety and health of em-  
19 ployees, contractors, patients, visitors, and other persons from  
20 communicable diseases. A health care facility may consider an  
21 employee or contractor to be unvaccinated or nonimmune if the  
22 employee or contractor declines to provide the person's immu-  
23 nization status to the health care facility for the purpose of  
24 determining whether reasonable accommodation measures should be  
25 implemented; and

26 (ii) The facility implements reasonable accommodation measures  
27 for employees, contractors, patients, visitors, and other per-  
28 sons who are not vaccinated or not immune to protect the safety and  
29 health of employees, contractors, patients, visitors, and other  
30 persons from communicable diseases.

31 (4) An individual may not be required to receive an inoculation by any  
32 vaccine whose use is allowed only under an emergency use authorization or any  
33 vaccine undergoing safety trials.

34 SECTION 4. That Chapter 4, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
35 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
36 ignated as Section 67-451B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

37 67-451B. SOVEREIGN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND CREATED. There is hereby cre-  
38 ated in the state treasury the sovereign legal defense fund. The sovereign  
39 legal defense fund shall consist of such moneys as are placed into it by ap-  
40 propriations and shall be continuously appropriated to the senate and the  
41 house of representatives. Any interest earned shall be returned to the fund.  
42 The sovereign legal defense fund shall be specifically exempt from the pro-  
43 visions of chapter 35, title 67, Idaho Code, and from the provisions of chap-  
44 ter 36, title 67, Idaho Code. The president pro tempore of the senate and the  
45 speaker of the house of representatives are hereby authorized to make expen-  
46 ditures out of the fund for any necessary legal expenses of the legislature  
47 in defending the sovereign power of the state of Idaho against any incursion  
48 by the federal government.

1           SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared  
2 to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such  
3 provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason,  
4 such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of  
5 this act.

6           SECTION 6. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
8 passage and approval.