



741132

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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Floor: 1/FC/2R

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11/17/2021 07:08 PM

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Senator Farmer moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. The Legislature declares that the  
misrepresentation of science and the partisan politics that  
prompted the consideration of proposed laws that ban, restrict,  
or penalize mandatory vaccines by private businesses are  
condemned.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.



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12 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

13 And the title is amended as follows:

14 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
15 and insert:

16 A bill to be entitled  
17 An act relating to COVID-19 mandates; providing  
18 legislative findings; providing an effective date.

19  
20 WHEREAS, the United States of America and the State of  
21 Florida have a long history of mandates and regulations tied to  
22 the health and safety of citizens during outbreaks and  
23 pandemics, including mandatory quarantine and vaccination, and

24 WHEREAS, during the Revolutionary War, 90 percent of deaths  
25 among American troops were caused by disease, with the smallpox  
26 virus being the most vicious of all, to the point that General  
27 George Washington mandated inoculation of all American troops,  
28 beginning with the Battles of Morristown and Princeton, and that  
29 action is credited with victory at the Battle of Saratoga, which  
30 tipped the scales of the war, and

31 WHEREAS, in 1889, Leon County ordered quarantines to  
32 protect local residents from the outbreak of yellow fever, and

33 WHEREAS, in 1895, the State of Florida empowered the  
34 president of the Florida State Board of Health with the duty to  
35 investigate, and the authority to quarantine during, emerging  
36 viruses, including yellow fever and cholera, and other  
37 infectious diseases, and this authority was expanded further in  
38 1901 and 1906, and

39 WHEREAS, in 1971, the State of Florida enacted a law  
40 ordering the State Board of Education to require immunization of



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41 all children against a litany of dangerous diseases, including  
42 polio, smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus, as a  
43 condition of attendance in the public schools, and

44 WHEREAS, the principle of separation of powers through the  
45 establishment of three separate but equal branches of government  
46 is one of the fundamental underpinnings of our nation and our  
47 state, and

48 WHEREAS, s. 1, Article IX of the State Constitution  
49 guarantees that adequate provision must be made by law for a  
50 uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of  
51 free public schools, and

52 WHEREAS, s. 4, Article IX of the State Constitution  
53 establishes local control over education by granting local  
54 county school boards the authority to operate, control, and  
55 supervise all free public schools within their school districts,  
56 and

57 WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long and distinguished  
58 history of protecting and promoting public records and Sunshine  
59 Laws, including the first public records law in 1909, which  
60 provided the right of inspection of formal records and opened  
61 meetings to all Floridians, followed by expansion of that law in  
62 1967, and recognition of the importance of public records laws  
63 by their enshrinement in the State Constitution in 1992, and

64 WHEREAS, world history reminds us of long conflicts between  
65 religion and science, beginning with the Inquisition and  
66 continuing to the Renaissance, during which artists, professors,  
67 and others were persecuted as heretics for depicting or  
68 believing in science or other newly emerging truths that  
69 conflicted with religious beliefs, and during which those



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70 believing in science were forced underground to avoid  
71 persecution, jail, or death, and

72 WHEREAS, irrational hysteria against science reached  
73 perhaps an all-time high during the time of the first smallpox  
74 vaccines in England, where unreasonable mistrust of the newly  
75 developed vaccine included false stories of births of half-cow  
76 babies, and

77 WHEREAS, today, we have seen an increase in entirely  
78 unfounded rumors and the citing of false science regarding the  
79 dangers of vaccines, claims that exceed the dangers of COVID-19  
80 itself, and

81 WHEREAS, all objectively established and recognized science  
82 is unanimous as to the inherent and extreme dangers of COVID-19  
83 and as to the fact that vaccines represent our country's best  
84 option to avoid extreme sickness and death, and

85 WHEREAS, since 2020, the Senate has followed the Centers  
86 for Disease Control and Prevention and Food and Drug  
87 Administration protocols and recommendations for protection  
88 against and testing for infection of COVID-19, including the  
89 institution of mask mandates and mandatory testing for all  
90 Senators and staff, and

91 WHEREAS, former President Donald Trump and, now, Governor  
92 Ron DeSantis have embarked on a path of misrepresentation of  
93 established science and the perpetuation of fraud on the  
94 American people, all in the name of red-meat, partisan politics  
95 at the expense of the very health and lives of all Americans  
96 and, in the case of Governor DeSantis, all Floridians, and

97 WHEREAS, the hypocrisy and inconsistency of our current  
98 Legislature is best seen when comparing proposed anti-vaccine



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99 mandates that have been filed and promoted under the guise of  
100 the right to privacy and independence when the same Legislature  
101 and Governor seek to eliminate a woman's right to determine her  
102 own medical health, and

103 WHEREAS, data, statistics, and current evidence show that  
104 such places as schools, where mask mandates have been invoked,  
105 have had markedly lower infection rates than places without mask  
106 requirements, and

107 WHEREAS, recent data and polling reveal that a strong  
108 majority of Floridians favor mask mandates in crowded public  
109 spaces, including schools, and that a majority of Floridians  
110 have been vaccinated, NOW, THEREFORE,