1 A bill to be entitled	
2 An act relating to declarations of a public health	
3 emergency; amending s. 381.00315, F.S.; providing that	
4 the administration of vaccines is not included within	
5 the meaning of the terms "treat," "treated," or	
6 "treatment" as they relate to public health	
7 emergencies; revising provisions related to the	
8 expiration and renewal of declarations of a public	
9 health emergency; authorizing an individual to refuse	
10 examination, testing, or treatment under a State	
11 Health Officer's order during a public health	
12 emergency by submitting a written refusal to the State	
13 Health Officer; providing that such individuals may	
14 not be required to undergo such examination, testing,	
15 or treatment; removing the State Health Officer's	
16 authority to use any means necessary to treat an	
17 individual under certain circumstances; providing an	
18 effective date.	
19	
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:	
21	
22 Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (2) of	
23 section 381.00315, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph	
24 (e) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:	
25 381.00315 Public health advisories; public health	
Page 1 of 5	

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2023

26 emergencies; isolation and guarantines.-The State Health Officer 27 is responsible for declaring public health emergencies, issuing 28 public health advisories, and ordering isolation or quarantines. 29 (1)As used in this section, the term: "Treat," "treated," or "treatment" does not include 30 (e) administration of vaccinations. 31 32 (2) Before declaring a public health emergency, the State 33 (b) 34 Health Officer shall, to the extent possible, consult with the Governor and shall notify the Chief of Domestic Security. The 35 36 declaration of a public health emergency shall continue until the State Health Officer finds that the threat or danger has 37 38 been dealt with to the extent that the emergency conditions no 39 longer exist and he or she terminates the declaration. However, 1. A declaration of a statewide public health emergency 40 41 expires may not continue for longer than 60 days after the 42 declaration unless the Governor concurs in the renewal of the 43 declaration, which extends the expiration of the declaration for 44 30 days. Any subsequent renewals must be approved by a two-45 thirds majority vote of each chamber of the Legislature before the declaration expires, with each renewal extending the 46 47 expiration of the declaration for 60 days. A statewide 48 declaration of a public health emergency automatically 49 terminates if it is not timely renewed before its expiration in 50 accordance with this subparagraph.

Page 2 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2023

2023

51 <u>2. A declaration of a public health emergency, other than</u> 52 <u>a statewide declaration, may not continue for longer than 60</u> 53 <u>days unless the Governor concurs in the renewal of the</u> 54 declaration.

(d) The State Health Officer, upon declaration of a public
health emergency, may take actions that are necessary to protect
the public health. Such actions include, but are not limited to:

Directing manufacturers of prescription drugs or over-58 1. 59 the-counter drugs who are permitted under chapter 499 and wholesalers of prescription drugs located in this state who are 60 permitted under chapter 499 to give priority to the shipping of 61 specified drugs to pharmacies and health care providers within 62 geographic areas identified by the State Health Officer. The 63 64 State Health Officer must identify the drugs to be shipped. 65 Manufacturers and wholesalers located in this the state must 66 respond to the State Health Officer's priority shipping 67 directive before shipping the specified drugs.

68 2. Notwithstanding chapters 465 and 499 and rules adopted 69 thereunder, directing pharmacists employed by the department to 70 compound bulk prescription drugs and provide these bulk 71 prescription drugs to physicians and nurses of county health 72 departments or any qualified person authorized by the State 73 Health Officer for administration to persons as part of a 74 prophylactic or treatment regimen.

75

3. Notwithstanding s. 456.036, temporarily reactivating

Page 3 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2023

76 the inactive license of the following health care practitioners, 77 when such practitioners are needed to respond to the public 78 health emergency: physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; physician assistants licensed under chapter 458 or 79 80 chapter 459; licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses licensed under part I of 81 82 chapter 464; respiratory therapists licensed under part V of chapter 468; and emergency medical technicians and paramedics 83 84 certified under part III of chapter 401. Only those health care 85 practitioners specified in this paragraph who possess an 86 unencumbered inactive license and who request that such license 87 be reactivated are eligible for reactivation. An inactive license that is reactivated under this paragraph returns shall 88 89 return to inactive status when the public health emergency ends 90 or before the end of the public health emergency if the State 91 Health Officer determines that the health care practitioner is 92 no longer needed to provide services during the public health 93 emergency. Such licenses may only be reactivated for a period 94 not to exceed 90 days without meeting the requirements of s. 95 456.036 or chapter 401, as applicable.

96 4. Ordering an individual to be examined, tested, treated,
97 isolated, or quarantined for communicable diseases that have
98 significant morbidity or mortality and present a severe danger
99 to public health. <u>However, an individual may refuse examination,</u>
100 testing, or treatment for reasons of health, religion, or

Page 4 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

101

conscience by submitting a refusal in writing to the State

2023

Health Officer. Such individuals may not be required to undergo examination, testing, or treatment but individuals who are unable or unwilling to be examined, tested, or treated for reasons of health, religion, or conscience may be subjected to isolation or quarantine.

a. Examination, testing, or treatment may be performed byany qualified person authorized by the State Health Officer.

b. If the individual poses a danger to the public health, the State Health Officer may subject the individual to isolation or quarantine. If there is no practical method to isolate or quarantine the individual, the State Health Officer may use any means necessary to treat the individual.

114 c. Any order of the State Health Officer given to 115 effectuate this paragraph is immediately enforceable by a law 116 enforcement officer under s. 381.0012.

117

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Page 5 of 5

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.