By Senator Gruters

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

1415

1617

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

2627

28

29

22-00113-24 2024680

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to protection of medical freedom; amending s. 381.003, F.S.; prohibiting the Department of Health from requiring enrollment in the state's immunization registry or otherwise requiring persons to submit to immunization tracking; prohibiting the department from including a person's immunization records in any interstate or federal immunization tracking system or otherwise giving an entity access to a person's immunization records without first obtaining written informed consent from the person or person's parent or quardian, as applicable; making technical changes; amending s. 381.00316, F.S.; revising and deleting definitions; prohibiting business entities from requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination or postinfection recovery from any communicable disease to gain access to, entry upon, or service from such entities; prohibiting a business entity from requiring individuals currently employed or seeking employment with that business to provide proof of vaccination or postinfection recovery from any communicable disease; prohibiting health care providers from discriminating in providing health care to a patient based solely on his or her vaccination status; prohibiting governmental entities from requiring that individuals show proof of vaccination or postinfection recovery from any communicable disease or requiring a certain test in order to gain access to, entry upon, or service from that

31

32

33 34

35

36

37

38

39 40

41

42

43 44

45 46

47

48 49

50

51

52

53

54

5556

57

58

22-00113-24 2024680

governmental entity's operations, or for employment, continued employment, or contracting with the governmental entity; reordering and amending s. 381.00319, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 420.9075, F.S.; adding a person's vaccination and immunity status to the prohibited forms of discrimination by local housing assistance plans; creating s. 448.077, F.S.; defining terms; prohibiting employers from refusing employment to, or discharging, disciplining, demoting, or otherwise discriminating against, an individual solely on the basis of vaccination or immunity status; creating a right of action for aggrieved individuals; providing for relief; creating ss. 626.9708, 627.6441, 627.6614, and 641.31078, F.S.; defining the term "vaccination or immunity status"; specifying prohibited discriminatory practices in the provision of life and disability insurance policies, health insurance policies, group health insurance policies, and health maintenance contracts, respectively; providing construction; amending s. 760.01, F.S.; revising the purposes of the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 to include discrimination protection for vaccination or immunity status; reordering and amending s. 760.02, F.S.; defining the term "vaccination or immunity status"; amending s. 760.05, F.S.; revising the functions of the Florida Commission on Human Relations to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 760.07, F.S.; revising provisions

60

61

62

63

64 65

66

67 68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

8485

86

87

22-00113-24 2024680

regarding remedies for unlawful discrimination to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 760.08, F.S.; prohibiting places of public accommodation from discriminating on the basis of vaccination or immunity status; amending s. 760.10, F.S.; prohibiting employers from engaging in specified discriminatory employment practices on the basis of a person's vaccination or immunity status; providing an exception; amending s. 760.22, F.S.; defining the term "vaccination or immunity status"; amending ss. 760.23, 760.24, 760.25, and 760.26, F.S.; prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's vaccination or immunity status in the sale or rental of housing, the provision of brokerage services, the financing of housing or residential real estate transactions, and land use decisions or permitting of development, respectively; amending s. 760.29, F.S.; revising an exemption from the Fair Housing Act regarding the appraisal of real property to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 760.60, F.S.; prohibiting certain clubs from engaging in specified discriminatory practices on the basis of a person's vaccination or immunity status; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1003.22, F.S.; prohibiting the Department of Health from requiring, as a school-entry requirement, that children receive immunizations approved only for emergency use; reenacting s. 381.00318(1), F.S., relating to complaints alleging

22-00113-24 2024680

violations, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 381.00316, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 760.11(1), F.S., relating to administrative and civil remedies, to incorporate the amendments made to ss. 760.01 and 760.02, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 760.11(15), F.S., relating to discharge of a person employed by the state or any governmental entity or agency, to incorporate the amendments made to s. 760.10, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting ss. 760.20, 760.30, 760.31(4) and (5), 760.34(1), (3), (4), and (7), 760.35(1) and (5)(a), and 760.37, F.S., relating to a short title, authority of the Florida Commission of Human Relations, powers and duties of the commission, enforcement of penalties for housing discrimination violations, commencement of a civil action for persons alleging discriminatory housing practices, and penalties for interfering with a person's rights, respectively, to incorporate the amendments made to ss. 760.25 and 760.26, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting s. 1002.42(6)(a), F.S., relating to immunization requirements for private school governing authorities, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 1003.22, F.S. in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

111112

113

88

89

90

91 92

93

94

95

96

9798

99

100

101

102103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

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

114115

116

Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 381.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22-00113-24 2024680

381.003 Communicable disease and AIDS prevention and control.— $\,$

- (1) The department shall conduct a communicable disease prevention and control program as part of fulfilling its public health mission. A communicable disease is any disease caused by transmission of a specific infectious agent, or its toxic products, from an infected person, an infected animal, or the environment to a susceptible host, either directly or indirectly. The communicable disease program must include, but need not be limited to:
- (e) Programs for the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases, including programs to immunize school children as required by s. 1003.22(3)-(11) and the development of an automated, electronic, and centralized database and registry of immunizations. The department may not require enrollment in the immunization registry or otherwise require persons to submit to any form of immunization tracking. The department shall ensure that all children in this state are immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases. The immunization registry must allow the department to enhance current immunization activities for the purpose of improving the immunization of all children in this state.
- 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., the department shall include all children born in this state in the immunization registry by using the birth records from the Office of Vital Statistics. The department shall add other children to the registry as immunization services are provided.
- 2. The parent or guardian of a child may refuse to have the child included in the immunization registry by signing a form

147

148

149

150

151152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

22-00113-24 2024680

obtained from the department, or from the health care practitioner or entity that provides the immunization, which indicates that the parent or quardian does not wish to have the child included in the immunization registry. Each consent to treatment form provided by a health care practitioner or by an entity that administers vaccinations or causes vaccinations to be administered to children from birth through 17 years of age must contain a notice stating that the parent or guardian of a child may refuse to have his or her child included in the immunization registry. The parent or guardian may either submit the opt-out form directly to the department or must provide it such opt-out form to the health care practitioner or entity upon administration of the vaccination. Such health care practitioner or entity shall submit the form to the department. If a parent or guardian has refused to have his or her child included in the immunization registry, A parent or guardian may submit the optout form directly to the department. any records or identifying information pertaining to the child must shall be removed from the registry, if the parent or guardian has refused to have his or her child included in the immunization registry.

3. A college or university student, from 18 years of age to 23 years of age, who obtains an immunization a vaccination from a college or university student health center or clinic in this the state may refuse to be included in the immunization registry by signing a form obtained from the department, health center, or clinic which indicates that the student does not wish to be included in the immunization registry. The student may either submit the opt-out form directly to the department or must provide it such opt-out form to the health center or clinic upon

22-00113-24 2024680

administration of the <u>immunization</u> vaccination. Such health center or clinic shall submit the form to the department. <u>If the student has refused to be included in the immunization registry</u>, A student may submit the opt-out form directly to the department. any records or identifying information pertaining to the student <u>must shall</u> be removed from the registry <u>if the student has refused to be included in the immunization registry</u>.

- 4. The immunization registry shall allow for immunization records to be electronically available to entities that are required by law to have such records, including, but not limited to, schools and licensed child care facilities. However, the department may not include a person's immunization records in any interstate or federal immunization tracking system or otherwise allow an entity not required by law to have such records without first obtaining written informed consent from the person or the person's parent or guardian, if the person is a minor, to release the immunization records for such purpose.
- 5. A health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 464 in this state who administers vaccinations or causes vaccinations to be administered to children from birth through 17 years of age is required to report vaccination data to the immunization registry, unless a parent or guardian of a child has refused to have the child included in the immunization registry by meeting the requirements of subparagraph 2. A health care practitioner licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 464 in this state who administers vaccinations or causes vaccinations to be administered to college or university students from 18 years of age to 23 years of age at a college or university student health

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212213

214

215

216217

218219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

22-00113-24 2024680

center or clinic is required to report vaccination data to the immunization registry, unless the student has refused to be included in the immunization registry by meeting the requirements of subparagraph 3. Vaccination data for students in other age ranges may be submitted to the immunization registry only if the student consents to inclusion in the immunization registry. The upload of data from existing automated systems is an acceptable method for updating immunization information in the immunization registry. The information in the immunization registry must include the child's name, date of birth, address, and any other unique identifier necessary to correctly identify the child; the immunization record, including the date, type of administered vaccine, and vaccine lot number; and the presence or absence of any adverse reaction or contraindication related to the immunization. Information received by the department for the immunization registry retains its status as confidential medical information and the department must maintain the confidentiality of that information as otherwise required by law. A health care practitioner or other agency that obtains information from the immunization registry must maintain the confidentiality of any medical records in accordance with s. 456.057 or as otherwise required by law.

Section 2. Present paragraphs (c) and (d) through (g) of subsection (2) of section 381.00316, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) and (b) through (e), respectively, and present paragraphs (b) and (c) of that subsection and subsections (3) and (4) of that section are amended, to read:

381.00316 Discrimination by governmental and business

22-00113-24 2024680

entities based on health care choices; prohibition.-

- (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (b) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2; any disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, its viral fragments, or a virus mutating therefrom; and all conditions associated with the disease which are caused by SARS-CoV-2, its viral fragments, or a virus mutating therefrom.
- $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ "COVID-19 Vaccine" means a preparation designed to stimulate the human body's immune response against \underline{a} communicable disease COVID-19.
- (3) (a) A business entity may not require any person to provide any documentation certifying vaccination with any vaccine defined under subsection (2) or postinfection recovery from any communicable disease COVID-19, or require a presumptive or confirmatory COVID-19 test showing proof of recovery from any communicable disease, to gain access to, entry upon, or service from the business operations in this state or as a condition of contracting, hiring, promotion, or continued employment with the business entity.
- (b) A business entity may not discharge or refuse to hire a person; deprive or attempt to deprive a person of employment opportunities; adversely affect a person's status as an employee or as an applicant for employment; or otherwise discriminate against a person based on knowledge or belief of the person's status relating to vaccination with any vaccine defined under subsection (2) or COVID-19 postinfection recovery from a communicable disease, or a person's failure to take a presumptive or confirmatory COVID-19 test showing proof of recovery from any communicable disease.

22-00113-24 2024680

(c) For matters relating to vaccines other than those defined under subsection (2), a business entity shall provide for exemptions and reasonable accommodations for religious and medical reasons in accordance with federal law.

 $\frac{\text{(d)}}{\text{(d)}}$ A licensed facility as defined in s. 395.002 may not discriminate in providing health care to a patient based solely on that patient's vaccination status with a $\frac{\text{COVID-19}}{\text{(d)}}$ vaccine.

- (4) (a) A governmental entity may not require any person to provide any documentation certifying vaccination with any vaccine defined under subsection (2) or postinfection recovery from a communicable disease COVID-19, or require a presumptive or confirmatory COVID-19 test for any communicable disease, to gain access to, entry upon, or service from the governmental entity's operations in this state or as a condition of contracting, hiring, promotion, or continued employment with the governmental entity.
- (b) A governmental entity may not discharge or refuse to hire a person; deprive or attempt to deprive a person of employment opportunities; adversely affect a person's status as an employee; or otherwise discriminate against a person based on the knowledge or belief of the person's status relating to vaccination with any vaccine defined under subsection (2) or a person's failure to take a presumptive or confirmatory COVID-19 test for a communicable disease.
- (c) For matters relating to vaccines other than those defined under subsection (2), a governmental entity shall provide for exemptions and reasonable accommodations for religious and medical reasons in accordance with federal law.
 - Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 381.00319, Florida

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301

302303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

2024680 22-00113-24 Statutes, is reordered and amended to read: 381.00319 Prohibition on mask mandates and vaccination and testing mandates for educational institutions. -(1) For purposes of this section, the term: (a) "COVID-19" has the same meaning as in s. 381.00316. (d) (b) "COVID-19 Vaccine" has the same meaning as in s. 381.00316. (a) (c) "Educational institution" means a public or private school, including a preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school. (b) (d) "Emergency use authorization vaccine" has the same meaning as in s. 381.00316. (c) (e) "Messenger ribonucleic acid vaccine" has the same meaning as in s. 381.00316. Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 420.9075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 420.9075 Local housing assistance plans; partnerships.-(4) Each local housing assistance plan is governed by the following criteria and administrative procedures: (c) In accordance with the provisions of ss. 760.20-760.37, it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, age, sex, vaccination or immunity status, marital status, familial status, national origin, or handicap in the award application process for eligible housing. Section 5. Section 448.077, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 448.077 Employment discrimination on the basis of

vaccination or immunity status prohibited .-

22-00113-24 2024680

(1) As used in this section, the term:

- (a) "Employee" means an individual who performs services for and is under the direction and control of an employer for wages or other remuneration. The term includes an independent contractor.
- (b) "Employer" means an individual, a firm, a partnership, an institution, a corporation, or an association that employs two or more employees. The term includes a governmental entity as defined in s. 768.38(2).
- (c) "Vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccine for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.
- (2) An employer may not refuse to employ an individual, or discharge, discipline, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an employee with respect to wages or terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, solely on the basis of the individual's vaccination or immunity status.
- (3) An individual who is refused employment or is discriminated against on the basis of vaccination or immunity status in violation of this section may file a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for relief as set forth in subsection (4).
- (4) In any action brought pursuant to subsection (3), the court may order any of the following forms of relief, as applicable:
- (a) An injunction preventing the continued violation of this section.
 - (b) Employment or reinstatement of the employee to the same

22-00113-24 2024680 349 position applied for or held, as applicable, before the 350 violation occurred or to an equivalent position. 351 (c) Compensation for lost wages, benefits, and other 352 remuneration. 353 (d) Reasonable attorney fees. 354 (e) Any other relief the court deems appropriate. 355 Section 6. Section 626.9708, Florida Statutes, is created 356 to read: 626.9708 Discrimination on the basis of vaccination or 357 358 immunity status prohibited.-359 (1) As used in this section, the term "vaccination or 360 immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccine for or is otherwise 361 immune to a particular communicable disease. 362 363 (2) An insurer authorized to transact insurance in this 364 state may not do any of the following: (a) Require proof of vaccination or immunity status for any 365 366 communicable disease from an applicant or a policyholder. 367 (b) Refuse to issue or renew any policy of life insurance 368 or disability insurance solely on the basis of the applicant's 369 or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status. 370 (c) Impose a higher premium rate or charge or otherwise 371 discriminate in coverage in a life insurance policy or 372 disability insurance policy solely on the basis of the 373 applicant's or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status. 374 (3) This section may not be construed to require an insurer 375 to provide insurance coverage for a medical condition that the 376 applicant or policyholder has already sustained.

Section 7. Section 627.6441, Florida Statutes, is created

22-00113-24 2024680

378 to read:

379380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400 401

402403

404

405

406

627.6441 Discrimination on the basis of vaccination or immunity status prohibited.—

- (1) As used in this section, the term "vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccine for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.
 - (2) A health insurer may not do any of the following:
- (a) Require proof of vaccination or immunity status for any communicable disease from an applicant or a policyholder.
- (b) Refuse to issue or renew a health insurance policy solely on the basis of the applicant's or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status.
- (c) Impose a higher premium rate or charge or otherwise discriminate in the coverage of care in a health insurance policy solely on the basis of the applicant's or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status.
- (3) This section may not be construed to require a health insurer to provide coverage for a medical condition that the applicant or policyholder has already sustained.
- Section 8. Section 627.6614, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- $\underline{\text{627.6614}}$ Discrimination on the basis of vaccination or $\underline{\text{immunity status prohibited.}}$
- (1) As used in this section, the term "vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccine for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.
 - (2) An insurer offering coverage under a group, blanket, or

22-00113-24 2024680

franchise health insurance policy in this state may not do any of the following:

- (a) Require proof of vaccination or immunity status for any communicable disease from an applicant or a policyholder.
- (b) Refuse to issue or renew a health insurance policy solely on the basis of the applicant's or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status.
- (c) Impose a higher premium rate or charge or otherwise discriminate in the coverage of care in a health insurance policy solely on the basis of the applicant's or policyholder's vaccination or immunity status.
- (3) This section may not be construed to require an insurer to provide coverage for a medical condition that the applicant or policyholder has already sustained.
- Section 9. Section 641.31078, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- <u>641.31078 Discrimination on the basis of vaccination or immunity status prohibited.</u>
- (1) As used in this section, the term "vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccine for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.
- (2) A health maintenance organization providing coverage under a health maintenance contract in this state may not do any of the following:
- (a) Require proof of vaccination or immunity status for any communicable disease from an applicant or a subscriber.
- (b) Refuse to issue or renew a health maintenance contract solely on the basis of the applicant's or subscriber's

22-00113-24 2024680

vaccination or immunity status.

(c) Impose a higher premium rate or charge or otherwise discriminate in the coverage of care in a health maintenance contract solely on the basis of the applicant's or subscriber's vaccination or immunity status.

(3) This section may not be construed to require a health maintenance organization to provide coverage for a medical condition that the applicant or subscriber has already sustained.

Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 760.01, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (1) of that section is republished, to read:

760.01 Purposes; construction; title.-

- (1) Sections 760.01-760.11 and 509.092 shall be cited as the "Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992."
- (2) The general purposes of the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 are to secure for all individuals within this the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status and thereby to protect their interest in personal dignity, to make available to the state their full productive capacities, to secure this the state against domestic strife and unrest, to preserve the public safety, health, and general welfare, and to promote the interests, rights, and privileges of individuals within this the state.

Section 11. Section 760.02, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

760.02 Definitions.—For the purposes of ss. 760.01-760.11

22-00113-24 2024680

and 509.092, the term:

- (7) "Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992" means ss. 760.01-760.11 and 509.092.
- (2) "Commission" means the Florida Commission on Human Relations created by s. 760.03.
- (3) "Commissioner" or "member" means a member of the commission.
- (4) "Discriminatory practice" means any practice made unlawful by the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992.
 - (9) (5) "National origin" includes ancestry.
- (10) (6) "Person" includes an individual, association, corporation, joint apprenticeship committee, joint-stock company, labor union, legal representative, mutual company, partnership, receiver, trust, trustee in bankruptcy, or unincorporated organization; any other legal or commercial entity; the state; or any governmental entity or agency.
- $\underline{(5)}$ "Employer" means any person employing 15 or more employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year, and any agent of such a person.
- (6) (8) "Employment agency" means any person regularly undertaking, with or without compensation, to procure employees for an employer or to procure for employees opportunities to work for an employer, and includes an agent of such a person.
- (8) (9) "Labor organization" means any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment.

22-00113-24 2024680

 $\underline{\text{(1)}}$ "Aggrieved person" means any person who files a complaint with the Human Relations Commission.

- (11) "Public accommodations" means places of public accommodation, lodgings, facilities principally engaged in selling food for consumption on the premises, gasoline stations, places of exhibition or entertainment, and other covered establishments. Each of the following establishments which serves the public is a place of public accommodation within the meaning of this section:
- (a) Any inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment which provides lodging to transient guests, other than an establishment located within a building which contains not more than four rooms for rent or hire and which is actually occupied by the proprietor of such establishment as his or her residence.
- (b) Any restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunch counter, soda fountain, or other facility principally engaged in selling food for consumption on the premises, including, but not limited to, any such facility located on the premises of any retail establishment, or any gasoline station.
- (c) Any motion picture theater, theater, concert hall, sports arena, stadium, or other place of exhibition or entertainment.
- (d) Any establishment which is physically located within the premises of any establishment otherwise covered by this subsection, or within the premises of which is physically located any such covered establishment, and which holds itself out as serving patrons of such covered establishment.
- (12) "Vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a

22-00113-24 2024680

vaccination for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.

Section 12. Section 760.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.05 Functions of the commission.—The commission shall promote and encourage fair treatment and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status and mutual understanding and respect among all members of all economic, social, racial, religious, and ethnic groups; and shall endeavor to eliminate discrimination against, and antagonism between, religious, racial, and ethnic groups and their members.

Section 13. Section 760.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.07 Remedies for unlawful discrimination.—Any violation of any Florida statute that makes unlawful discrimination because of race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status in the areas of education, employment, or public accommodations gives rise to a cause of action for all relief and damages described in s. 760.11(5), unless greater damages are expressly provided for. If the statute prohibiting unlawful discrimination provides an administrative remedy, the action for equitable relief and damages provided for in this section may be initiated only after the plaintiff has exhausted his or her administrative remedy. The term "public accommodations" does not include lodge halls or other similar facilities of private organizations which are made available for public use

22-00113-24 2024680

occasionally or periodically. The right to trial by jury is preserved in any case in which the plaintiff is seeking actual or punitive damages.

Section 14. Section 760.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.08 Discrimination in places of public accommodation.— All persons are entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.

Section 15. Subsections (1) and (2), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3), subsections (4), (5), and (6), and paragraph (a) of subsection (9) of section 760.10, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (9) of that section are republished, to read:

760.10 Unlawful employment practices.

- (1) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer:
- (a) To discharge or to fail or refuse to hire any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (b) To limit, segregate, or classify employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities, or adversely affect any individual's status as an employee, because

22-00113-24 2024680

of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.

- (2) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employment agency to fail or refuse to refer for employment, or otherwise to discriminate against, any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status or to classify or refer for employment any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (3) It is an unlawful employment practice for a labor organization:
- (a) To exclude or to expel from its membership, or otherwise to discriminate against, any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (b) To limit, segregate, or classify its membership or applicants for membership, or to classify or fail or refuse to refer for employment any individual, in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities, or adversely affect any individual's status as an employee or as an applicant for employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (4) It is an unlawful employment practice for any employer, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee controlling apprenticeship or other training or retraining,

22-00113-24 2024680

including on-the-job training programs, to discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status in admission to, or employment in, any program established to provide apprenticeship or other training.

- (5) Whenever, in order to engage in a profession, occupation, or trade, it is required that a person receive a license, certification, or other credential, become a member or an associate of any club, association, or other organization, or pass any examination, it is an unlawful employment practice for any person to discriminate against any other person seeking such license, certification, or other credential, seeking to become a member or associate of such club, association, or other organization, or seeking to take or pass such examination, because of such other person's race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (6) It is an unlawful employment practice for an employer, labor organization, employment agency, or joint labor-management committee to print, or cause to be printed or published, any notice or advertisement relating to employment, membership, classification, referral for employment, or apprenticeship or other training, indicating any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination, based on race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, absence of handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status.
- (9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, it is not an unlawful employment practice under ss. 760.01-760.10 for an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint

22-00113-24 2024680

labor-management committee to:

639

640

641

642

643644

645

646

647

648649

650

651

652

653

654

655

656

657

658

659

660

661

662

663

664

665

666

667

- (a) Take or fail to take any action on the basis of religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, age, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status in those certain instances in which religion, sex, condition of pregnancy, national origin, age, absence of a particular handicap, vaccination or immunity status, or marital status is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary for the performance of the particular employment to which such action or inaction is related.
- (b) Observe the terms of a bona fide seniority system, a bona fide employee benefit plan such as a retirement, pension, or insurance plan, or a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production, which is not designed, intended, or used to evade the purposes of ss. 760.01-760.10. However, no such employee benefit plan or system which measures earnings shall excuse the failure to hire, and no such seniority system, employee benefit plan, or system which measures earnings shall excuse the involuntary retirement of, any individual on the basis of any factor not related to the ability of such individual to perform the particular employment for which such individual has applied or in which such individual is engaged. This subsection shall not be construed to make unlawful the rejection or termination of employment when the individual applicant or employee has failed to meet bona fide requirements for the job or position sought or held or to require any changes in any bona fide retirement or pension programs or existing collective bargaining agreements during the life of the contract, or for 2 years after October 1, 1981, whichever occurs

22-00113-24 2024680

first, nor shall this act preclude such physical and medical examinations of applicants and employees as an employer may require of applicants and employees to determine fitness for the job or position sought or held.

- (c) Take or fail to take any action on the basis of age, pursuant to law or regulation governing any employment or training program designed to benefit persons of a particular age group.
- (d) Take or fail to take any action on the basis of marital status if that status is prohibited under its antinepotism policy.

Section 16. Subsection (11) is added to section 760.22, Florida Statutes, and subsection (4) of that section is republished, to read:

- 760.22 Definitions.—As used in ss. 760.20-760.37, the term:
- (4) "Discriminatory housing practice" means an act that is unlawful under the terms of ss. 760.20-760.37.
- (11) "Vaccination or immunity status," with respect to an individual, means whether he or she has been administered a vaccination for or is otherwise immune to a particular communicable disease.

Section 17. Subsections (1) through (5) of section 760.23, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) of that section is republished, to read:

- 760.23 Discrimination in the sale or rental of housing and other prohibited practices.—
- (1) It is unlawful to refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, to refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise to make unavailable or deny a

22-00113-24 2024680

dwelling to any person because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.

- (2) It is unlawful to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.
- (3) It is unlawful to make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed, or published, any notice, statement, or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.
- (4) It is unlawful to represent to any person because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, <u>vaccination or immunity status</u>, familial status, or religion that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale, or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available.
- (5) It is unlawful, for profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any dwelling by a representation regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.
 - (6) The protections afforded under ss. 760.20-760.37

22-00113-24 2024680

against discrimination on the basis of familial status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

Section 18. Section 760.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.24 Discrimination in the provision of brokerage services.—It is unlawful to deny any person access to, or membership or participation in, any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization, or other service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or renting dwellings, or to discriminate against him or her in the terms or conditions of such access, membership, or participation, on account of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.

Section 19. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 760.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

760.25 Discrimination in the financing of housing or in residential real estate transactions.—

(1) It is unlawful for any bank, building and loan association, insurance company, or other corporation, association, firm, or enterprise the business of which consists in whole or in part of the making of commercial real estate loans to deny a loan or other financial assistance to a person applying for the loan for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling, or to discriminate against him or her in the fixing of the amount, interest rate, duration, or other term or condition of

22-00113-24 2024680

such loan or other financial assistance, because of the race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion of such person or of any person associated with him or her in connection with such loan or other financial assistance or the purposes of such loan or other financial assistance, or because of the race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion of the present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants, or occupants of the dwelling or dwellings in relation to which such loan or other financial assistance is to be made or given.

(2) (a) It is unlawful for any person or entity whose business includes engaging in residential real estate transactions to discriminate against any person in making available such a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of such a transaction, because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.

Section 20. Section 760.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.26 Prohibited discrimination in land use decisions and in permitting of development.—It is unlawful to discriminate in land use decisions or in the permitting of development based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, religion, or, except as otherwise provided by law, the source of financing of a development or proposed development.

Section 21. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 760.29, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of

785

786

787

788

789

790

791

792

793

794

795

796

797

798799

800

801

802

803

804

805

806

807

808

809

810

811812

22-00113-24 2024680

subsection (1), subsections (2) and (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (5) of that section are republished, to read:

760.29 Exemptions.

- (1)(a) Nothing in ss. 760.23, 760.25, and 760.27 applies to:
- 1. Any single-family house sold or rented by its owner, provided such private individual owner does not own more than three single-family houses at any one time. In the case of the sale of a single-family house by a private individual owner who does not reside in such house at the time of the sale or who was not the most recent resident of the house prior to the sale, the exemption granted by this paragraph applies only with respect to one sale within any 24-month period. In addition, the bona fide private individual owner shall not own any interest in, nor shall there be owned or reserved on his or her behalf, under any express or voluntary agreement, title to, or any right to all or a portion of the proceeds from the sale or rental of, more than three single-family houses at any one time. The sale or rental of any single-family house shall be excepted from the application of ss. 760.20-760.37 only if the house is sold or rented:
- a. Without the use in any manner of the sales or rental facilities or the sales or rental services of any real estate licensee or such facilities or services of any person in the business of selling or renting dwellings, or of any employee or agent of any such licensee or person; and
- b. Without the publication, posting, or mailing, after notice, of any advertisement or written notice in violation of

22-00113-24 2024680

813 s. 760.23(3).

Nothing in this provision prohibits the use of attorneys, escrow agents, abstractors, title companies, and other such professional assistance as is necessary to perfect or transfer the title.

- 2. Rooms or units in dwellings containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than four families living independently of each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies one of such living quarters as his or her residence.
- (2) Nothing in ss. 760.20-760.37 prohibits a religious organization, association, or society, or any nonprofit institution or organization operated, supervised, or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association, or society, from limiting the sale, rental, or occupancy of any dwelling which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose to persons of the same religion or from giving preference to such persons, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or national origin. Nothing in ss. 760.20-760.37 prohibits a private club not in fact open to the public, which as an incident to its primary purpose or purposes provides lodgings which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose, from limiting the rental or occupancy of such lodgings to its members or from giving preference to its members.
- (3) Nothing in ss. 760.20-760.37 requires any person renting or selling a dwelling constructed for first occupancy before March 13, 1991, to modify, alter, or adjust the dwelling

22-00113-24 2024680

in order to provide physical accessibility except as otherwise required by law.

(4)(a) Any provision of ss. 760.20-760.37 regarding familial status does not apply with respect to housing for older persons.

A county or municipal ordinance regarding housing for older persons may not contravene the provisions of this subsection.

- (5) Nothing in ss. 760.20-760.37:
- (a) Prohibits a person engaged in the business of furnishing appraisals of real property from taking into consideration factors other than race, color, national origin, sex, disability, vaccination or immunity status, familial status, or religion.
- (b) Limits the applicability of any reasonable local restriction regarding the maximum number of occupants permitted to occupy a dwelling.
- (c) Requires that a dwelling be made available to an individual whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others.
- (d) Prohibits conduct against a person because such person has been convicted by any court of competent jurisdiction of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance as defined under chapter 893.

Section 22. Subsection (1) of section 760.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

760.60 Discriminatory practices of certain clubs prohibited; remedies.—

872

873

874

875

876

877

878

879

880

881

882

883

884

885

886

887

888

889

890

891

892

893

894

895

896

897

898

899

22-00113-24 2024680

(1) It is unlawful for a person to discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, age above the age of 21, or marital status in evaluating an application for membership in a club that has more than 400 members, that provides regular meal service, and that regularly receives payment for dues, fees, use of space, facilities, services, meals, or beverages directly or indirectly from nonmembers for business purposes. It is unlawful for a person, on behalf of such a club, to publish, circulate, issue, display, post, or mail any advertisement, notice, or solicitation that contains a statement to the effect that the accommodations, advantages, facilities, membership, or privileges of the club are denied to any individual because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicap, vaccination or immunity status, age above the age of 21, or marital status. This subsection does not apply to fraternal or benevolent organizations, ethnic clubs, or religious organizations where business activity is not prevalent.

Section 23. Paragraph (n) of subsection (3) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

- (3) HEALTH ISSUES.-
- (n) Face covering mandates and quarantine mandates in

22-00113-24 2024680

response to COVID-19.-

- 1. A district school board, a district school superintendent, an elected or appointed local official, or any district school board employee may not:
- a. Require a student to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose. However, a parent, at the parent's sole discretion, may allow his or her child to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose. This prohibition does not apply to safety equipment required as part of a course of study consistent with occupational or laboratory safety requirements.
- b. Prohibit a student from attending school or school-sponsored activities, prohibit a student from being on school property, or subject a student to restrictions or disparate treatment, based on an exposure to COVID-19, so long as the student remains asymptomatic and has not received a positive test for COVID-19 as defined in s. 381.00319(1).

A parent of a student, a student who is an emancipated minor, or a student who is 18 years of age or older may bring an action against the school district to obtain a declaratory judgment that an act or practice violates this subparagraph and to seek injunctive relief. A prevailing parent or student, as applicable, must be awarded reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

2. A district school board, a district school superintendent, an elected or appointed local official, or any school district employee may not prohibit an employee from

930

931

932

933

934

935

936

937

938

939

940

941

942

943944

945

946

947

948

949

950

951

952

953

954

955

956

957

22-00113-24 2024680

returning to work or subject an employee to restrictions or disparate treatment based on an exposure to COVID-19 so long as the employee remains asymptomatic and has not received a positive test for COVID-19 as defined in s. 381.00319(1).

Section 24. Subsection (3) of section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of that section is republished, to read:

1003.22 School-entry health examinations; immunization against communicable diseases; exemptions; duties of Department of Health.—

- (3) The Department of Health may adopt rules necessary to administer and enforce this section. The Department of Health, after consultation with the Department of Education, shall adopt rules governing the immunization of children against, the testing for, and the control of preventable communicable diseases. The rules must include procedures for exempting a child from immunization requirements. Immunizations must shall be required for poliomyelitis, diphtheria, rubeola, rubella, pertussis, mumps, tetanus, and other communicable diseases as determined by rules of the Department of Health; however, any immunization approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration only for emergency use may not be required. The manner and frequency of administration of the immunization or testing must shall conform to recognized standards of medical practice. The Department of Health shall supervise and secure the enforcement of the required immunization. Immunizations required by this section must shall be available at no cost from the county health departments.
 - (4) Each district school board and the governing authority

959

960

961

962

963

964

965

966

967968

969

970

971

972

973

974

975

976

977

978

979

980

981

982

983

984

985

986

22-00113-24 2024680

of each private school shall establish and enforce policies that:

(a) Prior to admittance to or attendance in a public or private school, grades kindergarten through 12, or any other initial entrance into a Florida public or private school, require each child to have on file with the immunization registry a certification of immunization for the prevention of those communicable diseases for which immunization is required by the Department of Health. Any child who is excluded from participation in the immunization registry pursuant to s. 381.003(1)(e)2. must present or have on file with the school such certification of immunization. Certification of immunization shall be made on forms approved and provided by the Department of Health or be on file with the immunization registry and shall become a part of each student's permanent record, to be transferred when the student transfers, is promoted, or changes schools. The transfer of such immunization certification by Florida public schools shall be accomplished using the Florida Automated System for Transferring Education Records and shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this section.

Section 25. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 381.00316, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 381.00318, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 381.00318 Complaints and investigations regarding mandate prohibitions; public records exemption.—
- (1) A complaint alleging a business entity's, a governmental entity's, or an educational institution's violation

988

989

990

991

992

993

994

995

996

997998

999

1000

1001

1002

1003

1004

1005

1006

1007

1008

1009

1010

1011 1012

1013

1014

1015

22-00113-24 2024680

of s. 381.00316, s. 381.00317, or s. 381.00319, and all information relating to an investigation of such complaint, held by the Department of Legal Affairs or the Department of Health is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the investigation is completed or ceases to be active. For purposes of this section, an investigation is considered "active" while such investigation is being conducted by the Department of Legal Affairs or the Department of Health with a reasonable good faith belief that it may lead to a determination of whether there was a violation of s. 381.00316, s. 381.00317, or s. 381.00319. An investigation does not cease to be active if the Department of Legal Affairs or the Department of Health is proceeding with reasonable dispatch and there is a good faith belief that action may be initiated by the Department of Legal Affairs or the Department of Health.

Section 26. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.01 and 760.02, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (1) of section 760.11, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

760.11 Administrative and civil remedies; construction.

(1) Any person aggrieved by a violation of ss. 760.01-760.10 may file a complaint with the commission within 365 days of the alleged violation, naming the employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint labor-management committee, or, in the case of an alleged violation of s. 760.10(5), the person responsible for the violation and describing the violation. Any person aggrieved by a violation of s. 509.092 may file a complaint with the commission within 365 days of the

1017

1018

1019

1020

1021

1022

1023

1024

1025

1026

1027

1028

1029

1030

10311032

1033

1034

10351036

1037

1038

1039

1040

10411042

1043

1044

22-00113-24 2024680

alleged violation naming the person responsible for the violation and describing the violation. The commission, a commissioner, or the Attorney General may in like manner file such a complaint. On the same day the complaint is filed with the commission, the commission shall clearly stamp on the face of the complaint the date the complaint was filed with the commission. In lieu of filing the complaint with the commission, a complaint under this section may be filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or with any unit of government of the state which is a fair-employment-practice agency under 29 C.F.R. ss. 1601.70-1601.80. If the date the complaint is filed is clearly stamped on the face of the complaint, that date is the date of filing. The date the complaint is filed with the commission for purposes of this section is the earliest date of filing with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the fair-employment-practice agency, or the commission. The complaint shall contain a short and plain statement of the facts describing the violation and the relief sought. The commission may require additional information to be in the complaint. The commission, within 5 days of the complaint being filed, shall by registered mail send a copy of the complaint to the person who allegedly committed the violation. The person who allegedly committed the violation may file an answer to the complaint within 25 days of the date the complaint was filed with the commission. Any answer filed shall be mailed to the aggrieved person by the person filing the answer. Both the complaint and the answer shall be verified.

Section 27. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to section 760.10, Florida Statutes, in a

22-00113-24 2024680

reference thereto, subsection (15) of section 760.11, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 760.11 Administrative and civil remedies; construction.-
- (15) In any civil action or administrative proceeding brought pursuant to this section, a finding that a person employed by the state or any governmental entity or agency has violated s. 760.10 shall as a matter of law constitute just or substantial cause for such person's discharge.

Section 28. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, section 760.20, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

760.20 Fair Housing Act; short title.—Sections 760.20-760.37 may be cited as the "Fair Housing Act."

Section 29. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, section 760.30, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

760.30 Administration of ss. 760.20-760.37.-

- (1) The authority and responsibility for administering ss. 760.20-760.37 is in the commission.
- (2) The commission may delegate any of its functions, duties, and powers to its employees, including functions, duties, and powers with respect to investigating, conciliating, hearing, determining, ordering, certifying, reporting, or otherwise acting as to any work, business, or matter under ss. 760.20-760.37.

Section 30. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida

22-00113-24 2024680

Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (4) and (5) of section 760.31, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

760.31 Powers and duties of commission.—The commission shall:

- (4) Administer the programs and activities relating to housing in a manner affirmatively to further the policies of ss. 760.20-760.37.
- (5) Adopt rules necessary to implement ss. 760.20-760.37 and govern the proceedings of the commission in accordance with chapter 120. Commission rules shall clarify terms used with regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities, exceptions from accessibility requirements based on terrain or site characteristics, and requirements related to housing for older persons.

Section 31. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (1), (3), (4), and (7) of section 760.34, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read: 760.34 Enforcement.—

(1) Any person who claims to have been injured by a discriminatory housing practice or who believes that he or she will be injured by a discriminatory housing practice that is about to occur may file a complaint with the commission.

Complaints shall be in writing and contain such information and be in such form as the commission requires. Upon receipt of such a complaint, the commission shall furnish a copy to the person or persons who allegedly committed the discriminatory housing practice or are about to commit the alleged discriminatory housing practice. Within 100 days after receiving a complaint,

1104

1105

1106 1107

1108

1109

1110

11111112

1113

11141115

1116

1117

11181119

1120

11211122

1123

1124

1125

1126

1127

1128

1129

1130

1131

22-00113-24 2024680

or within 100 days after the expiration of any period of reference under subsection (3), the commission shall investigate the complaint and give notice in writing to the aggrieved person whether it intends to resolve it. If the commission decides to resolve the complaint, it shall proceed to try to eliminate or correct the alleged discriminatory housing practice by informal methods of conference, conciliation, and persuasion. Insofar as possible, conciliation meetings shall be held in the cities or other localities where the discriminatory housing practices allegedly occurred. Nothing said or done in the course of such informal endeavors may be made public or used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding under ss. 760.20-760.37 without the written consent of the persons concerned. Any employee of the commission who makes public any information in violation of this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) If a local fair housing law provides rights and remedies for alleged discriminatory housing practices which are substantially equivalent to the rights and remedies provided in ss. 760.20-760.37, the commission shall notify the appropriate local agency of any complaint filed under ss. 760.20-760.37 which appears to constitute a violation of the local fair housing law, and the commission shall take no further action with respect to such complaint if the local law enforcement official has, within 30 days after the date the alleged offense was brought to his or her attention, commenced proceedings in the matter. In no event shall the commission take further action unless it certifies that in its judgment, under the circumstances of the particular case, the protection of the

22-00113-24 2024680

rights of the parties or the interests of justice require such action.

- (4) The aggrieved person may commence a civil action in any appropriate court against the respondent named in the complaint or petition for an administrative determination under s. 760.35 to enforce the rights granted or protected by ss. 760.20-760.37 and is not required to petition for an administrative hearing or exhaust administrative remedies before commencing such action. If, as a result of its investigation under subsection (1), the commission finds there is reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred, at the request of the aggrieved person, the Attorney General may bring an action in the name of the state on behalf of the aggrieved person to enforce ss. 760.20-760.37.
- (7) (a) The commission may institute a civil action in any appropriate court if it is unable to obtain voluntary compliance with ss. 760.20-760.37. The commission does not have to petition for an administrative hearing or exhaust its administrative remedies before bringing a civil action.
- (b) The court may impose the following fines for each violation of ss. 760.20-760.37:
- 1. Up to \$10,000, if the respondent has not previously been found guilty of a violation of ss. 760.20-760.37.
- 2. Up to \$25,000, if the respondent has been found guilty of one prior violation of ss. 760.20-760.37 within the preceding 5 years.
- 3. Up to \$50,000, if the respondent has been found guilty of two or more violations of ss. 760.20-760.37 within the preceding 7 years.

22-00113-24 2024680

In imposing a fine under this paragraph, the court shall consider the nature and circumstances of the violation, the degree of culpability, the history of prior violations of ss. 760.20-760.37, the financial circumstances of the respondent, and the goal of deterring future violations of ss. 760.20-760.37.

(c) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the commission in any action in which the commission prevails.

Section 32. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 760.35, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

760.35 Civil actions and relief; administrative procedures.—

(1) An aggrieved person may commence a civil action no later than 2 years after an alleged discriminatory housing practice has occurred. However, the court shall continue a civil case brought under this section or s. 760.34 before bringing it to trial if the court believes that the conciliation efforts of the commission or local agency are likely to result in satisfactory settlement of the discriminatory housing practice complained of in the complaint made to the commission or to the local agency and which practice forms the basis for the action in court. Any sale, encumbrance, or rental consummated before the issuance of any court order issued under the authority of ss. 760.20-760.37 and involving a bona fide purchaser,

22-00113-24 2024680

encumbrancer, or tenant without actual notice of the existence of the filing of a complaint or civil action under ss. 760.20-760.37 is not affected.

- (5)(a) If the commission is unable to obtain voluntary compliance with ss. 760.20-760.37 or has reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory practice has occurred:
- 1. The commission may institute an administrative proceeding under chapter 120; or
- 2. The aggrieved person may request administrative relief under chapter 120 within 30 days after receiving notice that the commission has concluded its investigation under s. 760.34.

Section 33. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 760.25 and 760.26, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, section 760.37, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

760.37 Interference, coercion, or intimidation; enforcement by administrative or civil action.—It is unlawful to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the exercise of, or on account of her or his having exercised, or on account of her or his having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise of any right granted under ss. 760.20-760.37. This section may be enforced by appropriate administrative or civil action.

Section 34. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.42 Private schools.-

(6) IMMUNIZATIONS.—The governing authority of each private

2024680___ 22-00113-24 1219 school shall: (a) Require students to present a certification of 1220 1221 immunization in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.22(3)-1222 (11). 1223 Section 35. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.