**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**S. 177**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Senators Corbin, Rice, Loftis, Verdin, Martin, Garrett, Gustafson and Grooms

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 3711

Introduced in the Senate on January 12, 2021

Introduced in the House on April 13, 2021

Last Amended on April 8, 2021

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

Summary: COVID-19 vaccinations

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/9/2020 Senate Prefiled

12/9/2020 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs**

1/12/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 204](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

1/12/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 204](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

3/31/2021 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj\20210331.docx))

4/7/2021 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\sj\20210407.docx))

4/7/2021 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\sj\20210407.docx))

4/7/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑43 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 45](file:///h:\sj\20210407.docx))

4/8/2021 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 36](file:///h:\sj\20210408.docx))

4/8/2021 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 36](file:///h:\sj\20210408.docx))

4/8/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑33 Nays‑7 ([Senate Journal‑page 36](file:///h:\sj\20210408.docx))

4/13/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\hj\20210413.docx))

4/13/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 6](file:///h:\hj\20210413.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=177&session=124&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/9/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\177_20201209.docx)

[3/31/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\177_20210331.docx)

[4/7/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\177_20210407.docx)

[4/8/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\177_20210408.docx)

AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

April 8, 2021

**S. 177**

Introduced by Senators Corbin, Rice, Loftis, Verdin, Martin and Garrett

S. Printed 4/8/21--S.

Read the first time January 12, 2021.

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ARE PURELY VOLUNTARY, TO PROVIDE THAT AN EMPLOYER CANNOT TAKE AN ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT ACTION AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE WHO CHOOSES NOT TO UNDERGO A COVID-19 VACCINATION, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL CANNOT REQUIRE ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE FOR A PERSON WHO CHOOSES NOT TO UNDERGO A COVID-19 VACCINATION.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. No person in this State may be compelled to undergo vaccination to prevent coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19. If a person chooses not to undergo vaccination, then the person’s employer may not subject the person to an adverse employment action, including, but not limited to, a termination, suspension, involuntary reassignment, or demotion.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in SECTION 1, an employee or contractor working for an entity who is treating or caring for vulnerable populations may be required by that entity to undergo vaccination to prevent COVID-19. For the purposes of this SECTION, “vulnerable populations” includes a person over the age of sixty, or a person with an underlying medical condition identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as having a higher risk of complications related to COVID-19.

SECTION 3. Nothing contained in this joint resolution shall prevent an employer from encouraging, promoting, or administering vaccinations, and nothing in this joint resolution shall prevent an employer from offering incentives to employees who elect to be vaccinated.

SECTION 4. The provisions contained in Section 44-4-520(A)(3), related to the Department of Health and Environmental Control’s authority to require isolation or quarantine for people who do not undergo vaccinations during a public health emergency, do not apply to a person who chooses not to undergo vaccination for COVID-19. Nothing in this SECTION limits an employer’s authority to mandate quarantines for employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, have symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19, provided that the employer’s quarantine procedures comply with applicable state and federal guidance.

SECTION 5. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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