



AIM State Legislative Round-Up

March 18, 2022

We continue to see a lot of action around vaccine policy in state legislatures. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Network recently conducted an analysis on a sample of ten states and found close to 600 vaccine-related bills introduced in these ten states: LA – 33 bills introduced, FL – 61, WI – 69, OK – 99, TN – 86, AZ – 63, GA – 50, ID – 24, MI – 72, and OH 42.

Emerging themes continue to focus on 1) **Employers**: preventing employers from requiring COVID vaccine and creating employer liability for any adverse events caused by mandated vaccines; 2) **Schools**: blocking schools' ability to require COVID vaccine and preventing schools from hosting vaccine clinics; and 3) **Civil Rights**: casting vaccine status as a protected class under the rubric of civil rights,

AIM continues to be concerned that anti-COVID vaccine sentiment may spillover to undermine broader immunization infrastructure and long-standing policies. As always, we stand ready to assist you in addressing proposed legislation as needed – please contact policy consultant Brent Ewig (bewig25@gmail.com) for customized assistance. Following are a few additional examples of recent state actions (although please note this is not a comprehensive review.)

Falsification of vaccine records:

- **NY AB 8700** was enacted on 2/24/22. This law makes it a crime to falsify COVID-19 vaccination records and/or alter or destroy computer records indicating that a person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

Exemptions

- **UT H63** was **sent to the governor** on 3/4/22. This bill requires an employer to exempt an employee or a prospective employee from a coronavirus vaccine requirement if the employee or prospective employee submits a primary care provider's note stating that the employee or prospective employee was previously infected by coronavirus.
- **SC S838** moved out of committee to the senate floor for a vote. This bill prohibits administration to COVID-19 vaccine without parental consent (in SC, this is minors under 16).

COVID Daycare and School Mandates

- **IA HF2298** (formerly HF 2040) **passed the house and moved to the senate**. This bill prohibits any licensed childcare center, elementary or secondary school, or post-secondary from requiring COVID-19 vaccine for enrollment prior to July 1, 2029.

Mandates

- **NH HB1455** moved out of committee to house floor. This bill would prohibit the state enforcement of Federal vaccine mandates.

- **OK HB3878** is a new proposal that would require employers to offer exemptions to vaccine mandates, and stipulates any employee under 18 years of age is not required to receive any vaccinations without the written permission of a parent or guardian.
- **OK SB1128** proposes to prevent mandates of vaccines for COVID-19 under EUA or that have been fully licensed but available for less than 5 years. This bill stipulates that this does not apply to entities that must mandate vaccine to receive federal funding.
- **OK SB765** was carried over from the 2021 session. This bill proposed to prohibit employers to condition employment attainment or retention based on compliance for a vaccine requirement, not limited to COVID and with no exception for healthcare settings or other workplaces that have vaccine requirements.