

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1740
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Bill Analysis

SB 1740 prohibits private employers from requiring its employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine without providing for medical exemptions relating to pregnancy, religious reasons, COVID-19 immunity, periodic testing, and the use of employer-provided personal protective equipment. An employee claiming the exemption shall present his or her employer with a medical exemption statement form, which shall be dated and signed by a licensed physician or a physician assistant who holds a valid, active license. The statement shall provide that, in the professional opinion of the physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, COVID-19 vaccination is not in the best medical interest of the employee. Claiming the religious exemption requires the employee to present the employer with a statement indicating that the employee declines COVID-19 vaccination because of a sincerely held religious belief. If an employee claims an exemption based on immunity, he or she shall present the employer with an exemption statement demonstrating competent medical evidence that the employee has immunity to COVID-19. The employee shall present the employer with a statement that he or she will comply with testing requirements if the employee claims an exemption on testing grounds. An employee may file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General alleging that an exemption has not been offered or has been improperly applied or denied in violation of the provisions of this measure. If a violation is found to have occurred after an investigation is conducted, the Attorney General shall fine the employer for up to \$10,000.00 per violation for employers with less than 100 employees and up to \$50,000.00 per violation for employers with more than 100 employees.

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