

HCS HBs 700 & 445 -- REFUSAL OF MEDICAL PROCEDURES OR TREATMENT
(Hardwick)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Emerging Issues

No public school district or public charter school receiving public funds shall require for a student, as a condition of enrollment, attendance of event or activity, or any other reason, to:

- (1) Receive a COVID-19 vaccination;
- (2) Receive a dose of messenger ribonucleic acid;
- (3) Receive any treatment or procedure intended or designed to edit or alter human deoxyribonucleic acid or the human genome; or
- (4) Have placed under the student's skin any mechanical or electronic device.

No public body, political subdivision, public school district, state department or agency, judge or judicial officer, public official, peace officer, or person appointed by the Governor acting in an official capacity shall require any person to:

- (1) Receive a COVID-19 vaccination;
- (2) Receive a dose of messenger ribonucleic acid;
- (3) Receive any treatment or procedure intended or designed to edit or alter human deoxyribonucleic acid or the human genome; or
- (4) Have placed under the person's skin any mechanical or electronic device;

Or impose any fine, tax, or criminal or civil penalty based upon a person's decision to receive any of the above.

The provisions of this section relating to COVID-19 vaccination shall not apply to any student training in a health care field receiving clinical hours at a facility as described in the bill and public colleges or universities that require COVID-19 vaccination for employees or select student participants to receive federal funds. Additionally, the provisions of this section shall not apply to certain facilities, entities, and individuals described in the bill (Section 191.230, RSMo).

Employees shall be exempt from any employer requirement, and students from a public college or university requirement, to receive medical treatment, as defined in the bill, as a condition

of employment or participation in a sponsored activity if the employee or student submits a request in writing that states:

(1) The employee or student holds a sincerely held religious belief, which may include any deeply held nontheistic moral belief, that forbids the employee from receiving the medical treatment and reasonable accommodation would not pose an undue hardship; or

(2) The employee or student has received written recommendation from a physician advising the employee not to receive the required medical treatment.

A court may grant any person whose rights are violated by this section relief, including injunctive relief, and reasonable attorney's fees (Section 292.648).