

House Bill 897

By: Representatives Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ridley of the 6<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Horner of the 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
and Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 control of hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, so as to  
3 repeal the authority of the Department of Public Health and all county boards of health to  
4 require persons to submit to vaccinations against or other measures to prevent contagious or  
5 infectious diseases; to repeal authorities and related provisions; to prohibit state or local  
6 government entities from requiring individuals to submit to vaccinations or to prove  
7 postinfection recovery as a condition for certain actions; to prohibit state or local government  
8 entities from issuing immunization passports or the like or proof of postinfection recovery  
9 for the purpose of certifying the health status of an individual; to prohibit state or local  
10 government entities from requiring face masks or other facial coverings to minimize the  
11 spread of contagious or infectious diseases; to prohibit certain entities or individuals doing  
12 business in this state from requiring patrons or customers to provide any documentation  
13 certifying vaccination or postinfection recovery or to wear a mask or other facial covering  
14 in order to gain entry to a business or to receive goods or services; to provide for related  
15 matters; to provide a short title; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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- 1 -

**SECTION 1.**

17

18 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Medical Freedom Act."

**SECTION 2.**

19

20 Chapter 12 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of  
21 hazardous conditions, preventable diseases, and metabolic disorders, is amended by revising  
22 Code Section 31-12-3, relating to power to require immunization and other preventive  
23 measures, as follows:

24 "31-12-3.

25 ~~(a) The department and all county boards of health are empowered to require, by~~  
26 ~~appropriate rules and regulations, persons located within their respective jurisdictions to~~  
27 ~~submit to vaccination against contagious or infectious disease where the particular disease~~  
28 ~~may occur, whether or not the disease may be an active threat. The department may, in~~  
29 ~~addition, require such other measures to prevent the conveyance of infectious matter from~~  
30 ~~infected persons to other persons as may be necessary and appropriate. The department~~  
31 ~~shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions~~  
32 ~~of this Code section in the case of a declaration of a public health emergency and shall~~  
33 ~~include provisions permitting consideration of the opinion of a person's personal physician~~  
34 ~~as to whether the vaccination is medically appropriate or advisable for such person. Such~~  
35 ~~rules and regulations shall be adopted pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia~~  
36 ~~Administrative Procedure Act,' but shall be automatically referred by the Office of~~  
37 ~~Legislative Counsel to the House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Judiciary.~~

38 ~~(b) In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof, this Code section shall not~~  
39 ~~apply to any person who objects in writing thereto on grounds that such immunization~~  
40 ~~conflicts with his religious beliefs.~~

41 (a) No law, rule, or order by any state or local government entity or any agent or official  
42 thereof shall require the receipt of a vaccine or proof of postinfection recovery for any

43 reason, including, but not limited to, as a condition of access to any government service,  
44 building, or space; employment; professional licensure; access to or enrollment and  
45 attendance at any public or private pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, secondary,  
46 or postsecondary educational institution; any educational diploma, certification, licensure,  
47 or degree; access to any mode of transportation; access or admittance to any child care  
48 facility, healthcare facility, long-term care facility, or nursing home; or admittance to any  
49 place of business or entertainment.

50 (b) No state or local government entity or any agent or official thereof shall issue vaccine  
51 or immunization passports, vaccine or immunization passes, proof of postinfection  
52 recovery, or any other standardized documentation for the purpose of certifying the health  
53 status of an individual or otherwise require the publication or sharing of immunization  
54 records or similar health information for an individual, except as otherwise required by law.

55 (c) No law, rule, or order by any state or local government entity or any agent or official  
56 thereof shall require a person in this state to wear a face mask or other facial covering to  
57 minimize the spread of a contagious or infectious disease.

58 (d) No entity or individual doing business in this state shall require patrons or customers  
59 to provide proof of postinfection recovery or any documentation certifying vaccination or  
60 to wear a mask or other facial covering to minimize the spread of a contagious or infectious  
61 disease in order to gain entry to a business or to receive any goods or services."

62 **SECTION 3.**

63 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.