

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2710

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL OR PARENT OR LEGAL
 2 GUARDIAN OF A CHILD MAY SIGN A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO THE COVID
 3 VACCINE TO ATTEST THAT THE INDIVIDUAL OR CHILD IS AN ADHERENT OR
 4 FOLLOWER OF A RELIGION, THE TEACHINGS OF WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO SUCH
 5 IMMUNIZATION; TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON, BUSINESS ENTITY OR A
 6 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL NOT REFUSE, WITHHOLD FROM OR DENY TO A
 7 PERSON ANY LOCAL OR STATE SERVICES, GOODS, FACILITIES, ADVANTAGES,
 8 PRIVILEGES, LICENSING, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, HEALTH CARE
 9 ACCESS OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON THE PERSON'S RELIGIOUS
 10 OBJECTION TO THE COVID VACCINE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) For purposes of this act, unless the context
 13 requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings
 14 ascribed herein:

15 (a) "COVID Vaccine" means the vaccine intended to
 16 provide acquired immunity against coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) or
 17 any virus associated with or mutated from the virus that caused
 18 the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

19 (b) "Religious exemption" means a sworn statement
 20 signed by an individual that attests that the individual has not
 21 received the COVID Vaccine because the individual is an adherent



22 or follower to a religion, the teachings of which are opposed to
23 such immunization.

24 (2) An individual or parent or legal guardian of a child may
25 sign a religious exemption to the COVID Vaccine to attest that the
26 individual or child is an adherent or follower of a religion, the
27 teachings of which are opposed to such immunization.

28 (3) A person, business entity or a governmental entity shall
29 not refuse, withhold from or deny to a person any local or state
30 services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing,
31 educational opportunities, health care access or employment
32 opportunities based on the person's religious objection to the
33 COVID Vaccine.

34 (4) An employer shall not refuse employment to a person, bar
35 a person from employment or discriminate against a person in
36 compensation or in a term, condition or privilege of employment
37 based on the person's religious objection to the COVID Vaccine.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2022.

