

HB 1242 – Medical Freedom Act

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 1242](#) - This bill does forbids the Department of Public Health and county boards of health to require vaccines or any other measure to prevent contagious or infectious disease spread. State and local government entities are no longer allowed to require vaccinations, issue immunization passports, require masks, or allow certain businesses in the state to require vaccination or face masks.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	<p>News coverage is currently limited, but this bill can be expected to impact all stakeholders negatively. According to the Centers for Disease Control, getting vaccinated is safer than getting sick (CDC, 2024). Higher vaccination rates protect the community beyond the individual level by reducing the spread of diseases beyond the infected individual (Orenstein and Ahmed, 2017). Vaccines have been widely supported by the CDC, Federal Drug Administration, and World Health Organization when similar legislation regarding COVID-19 vaccine mandates arose in 2022 (Richards, 2022).</p>			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	<p>This bill affects all Georgians, as higher vaccination rates increase community protection. Higher vaccination rates protect vulnerable individuals by reducing disease spread beyond infected individuals. Certain community immunity thresholds (some upwards of 90% of the population) are required for diseases to no longer be transmitted (Orenstein and Ahmed, 2017).</p>			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	<p>This bill does not utilize scientific knowledge accurately and thus lacks scientific merit. Decades of epidemiological research have demonstrated effectiveness of vaccines, masking policies or other preventative interventions as effective in preventing transmission of preventable outbreaks (Wu et al., 2023; Liang et al., 2020). Removing the authority of public health agencies to implement these measures limits evidence-based response capacity and may increase morbidity and mortality, especially among medically vulnerable populations.</p>			

Science for Georgia, Inc.

1700 Northside Dr, Ste A7, PMB 916, Atlanta, GA 30318

Scienceforgeorgia.org • info@sci4ga.org

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Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	<p>According to a report by the CDC, influenza outbreaks cost nearly \$90 billion annually nationwide. Medical costs are \$10.4 billion, while total costs, including lost worker production, rise to \$87.1 billion. The study based its figures on 24.7 million cases of flu annually, leading to an average per-case cost of \$3,526.32 (Dobson, 2007). Total vaccination across 13 childhood diseases caused nearly \$69 billion in net savings to the U.S. (Orenstein and Ahmed, 2017).</p>			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	<p>The bill is entirely Republican sponsored in the House.</p>			
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	<p>A plethora of research disproves the necessity of such a bill, as highlighted above.</p>			