

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 703

2 INTRODUCED BY J. HINKLE

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF VACCINATION STATUS OR
5 IMMUNITY PASSPORT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING
6 SECTIONS 13-1-116 AND 49-2-101, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
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8 WHEREAS, as noted in section 50-16-502, MCA, "health care information is personal and sensitive
9 information that if improperly used or released may do significant harm to a patient's interests in privacy and
10 health care or other interests"; and

11 WHEREAS, the Montana Supreme Court has concluded that "medical records fall within the zone of
12 privacy protected by Article II, section 10, of the Montana Constitution" and "are quintessentially private and
13 deserve the utmost constitutional protection"; and

14 WHEREAS, government adoption of tracking immunity passports or medical data can lead to new
15 forms of discrimination that could easily be expanded to include other forms of personal health data, such as
16 mental health records and genetic test results.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Use of vaccination status or immunity passport prohibited for**
21 **certain identification cards, benefits, and services -- legislative purpose.** (1) The legislature recognizes
22 that the adoption, use, or sharing of vaccination status or immunity passports is a voluntary act by an individual.
23 The purpose of this section is to recognize that individuals must be free from coercion to provide private
24 sensitive medical data to a third party.

25 (2) A state or local government entity or public accommodation operating in this state may not:

26 (a) connect an individual's medical records, digitally or otherwise, to an individual's government-
27 issued records or identification, including but not limited to a passport, driver's license, identification card, birth
28 certificate, or social security card;

(b) require an individual to offer proof of vaccination status or immunity passport in order to obtain, maintain, or renew any government-issued card, government benefits, public assistance as defined in 53-2-101, or membership card related to a private business;

(c) compel or coerce an individual to receive any pharmaceutical product or intervention; or

(d) require vaccination status or immunity passport to access or acquire common life-sustaining goods and services available to the public, including but not limited to food, child care products, and medication.

(2) For the purposes of this section, medical records include:

(a) medical records controlled by a government entity; and

(b) vaccination status or immunity passport.

(3) A person, public accommodation, or a government entity that requires an individual to present a driver's license or an identification card as proof of driving or traveling privileges may not:

(a) require an individual to offer proof of vaccination status or immunity passport in order to travel; or

(b) discriminate against, deny services or access for services, segregate, publicly identify, or otherwise penalize an individual for not receiving a vaccination or providing proof of immunity from any communicable disease.

(4) This section does not apply to a person who is confirmed to have a communicable disease and is quarantined under a public isolation order.

Section 2. Section 13-1-116, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-1-116. Fingerprint, mark, or agent for disabled electors -- rulemaking. (1) Except as otherwise specified by law, the provisions of this section apply.

(2) Whenever a signature is required by an elector under a provision of this title and the elector is unable because of a disability to provide a signature, the elector may provide a fingerprint, subject to subsection (6), or an identifying mark or may request that an agent, election administrator, or election judge sign for the elector as provided in this section.

(3) If an elector is unable to provide a fingerprint or an identifying mark and the elector has not established an agent pursuant to subsection (4), the election administrator or an election judge may sign for the

1 elector after reviewing and verifying the elector's identification.

2 (4) (a) An elector who is unable to provide a signature may apply to the election administrator to have
3 another person designated as an agent for purposes of providing a signature or identifying mark required
4 pursuant to this title and for providing any other assistance to the elector throughout the registration and voting
5 process. The use of an agent is a reasonable accommodation under the provisions of 49-2-101(19)(20)(b).

6 (b) An application for designation of an agent by an elector under this section must be made on a
7 form prescribed by the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall by rule establish the criteria that must be
8 met and the process that must be followed in order for a person to become a designated agent for a disabled
9 elector pursuant to this subsection (4).

10 (5) If an election administrator or election judge signs or marks a document for an elector pursuant to
11 this section, the election administrator or election judge shall initial the signature or mark.

12 (6) A disabled elector may not be required to provide a fingerprint."
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14 **Section 3.** Section 49-2-101, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"49-2-101. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following
16 definitions apply:

17 (1) "Age" means number of years since birth. It does not mean level of maturity or ability to handle
18 responsibility. These latter criteria may represent legitimate considerations as reasonable grounds for
19 discrimination without reference to age.

20 (2) "Aggrieved party" means a person who can demonstrate a specific personal and legal interest, as
21 distinguished from a general interest, and who has been or is likely to be specially and injuriously affected by a
22 violation of this chapter.

23 (3) "Commission" means the commission for human rights provided for in 2-15-1706.

24 (4) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

25 (5) "Credit" means the right granted by a creditor to a person to defer payment of a debt, to incur debt
26 and defer its payment, or to purchase property or services and defer payment. It includes without limitation the
27 right to incur and defer debt that is secured by residential real property.

28 (6) "Credit transaction" means any invitation to apply for credit, application for credit, extension of

1 credit, or credit sale.

2 (7) "Creditor" means a person who, regularly or as a part of the person's business, arranges for the
3 extension of credit for which the payment of a financial charge or interest is required, whether in connection
4 with loans, sale of property or services, or otherwise.

5 (8) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

6 (9) "Educational institution" means a public or private institution and includes an academy; college;
7 elementary or secondary school; extension course; kindergarten; nursery; school system; university; business,
8 nursing, professional, secretarial, technical, or vocational school; or agent of an educational institution.

9 (10) (a) "Employee" means an individual employed by an employer.

10 (b) The term does not include an individual providing services for an employer if the individual has an
11 independent contractor exemption certificate issued under 39-71-417 and is providing services under the terms
12 of that certificate.

13 (11) "Employer" means an employer of one or more persons or an agent of the employer but does not
14 include a fraternal, charitable, or religious association or corporation if the association or corporation is not
15 organized either for private profit or to provide accommodations or services that are available on a
16 nonmembership basis.

17 (12) "Employment agency" means a person undertaking to procure employees or opportunities to
18 work.

19 (13) "Financial institution" means a commercial bank, trust company, savings bank, finance company,
20 savings and loan association, credit union, investment company, or insurance company.

21 (14) "Housing accommodation" means a building or portion of a building, whether constructed or to be
22 constructed, that is or will be used as the sleeping quarters of its occupants.

23 (15) "Immunity passport" means a document, digital record, or software application indicating that a
24 person is immune to a disease, either through vaccination or infection and recovery.

25 ~~(15)~~(16) "Labor organization" means an organization or an agent of an organization organized for the
26 purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining, of dealing with employers concerning grievances or terms
27 or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid and protection of employees.

28 ~~(16)~~(17) "National origin" means ancestry.

1 ~~(17)~~(18) (a) "Organization" means a corporation, association, or any other legal or commercial entity
2 that engages in advocacy of, enforcement of, or compliance with legal interests affected by this chapter.

3 (b) The term does not include a labor organization.

4 ~~(18)~~(19) "Person" means one or more individuals, labor unions, partnerships, associations,
5 corporations, legal representatives, mutual companies, joint-stock companies, trusts, unincorporated
6 employees' associations, employers, employment agencies, organizations, or labor organizations.

7 ~~(19)~~(20) (a) "Physical or mental disability" means:

8 (i) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life
9 activities;

10 (ii) a record of such an impairment; or

11 (iii) a condition regarded as such an impairment.

12 (b) Discrimination based on, because of, on the basis of, or on the grounds of physical or mental
13 disability includes the failure to make reasonable accommodations that are required by an otherwise qualified
14 person who has a physical or mental disability. An accommodation that would require an undue hardship or that
15 would endanger the health or safety of any person is not a reasonable accommodation.

16 ~~(20)~~(21) (a) "Public accommodation" means a place that caters or offers its services, goods, or
17 facilities to the general public subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable to
18 all persons. It includes without limitation a public inn, restaurant, eating house, hotel, roadhouse, place where
19 food or alcoholic beverages or malt liquors are sold for consumption, motel, soda fountain, soft drink parlor,
20 tavern, nightclub, trailer park, resort, campground, barbering, barbering nonchemical, cosmetology, electrology,
21 esthetics, or manicuring salon or shop, bathroom, resthouse, theater, swimming pool, skating rink, golf course,
22 cafe, ice cream parlor, transportation company, or hospital and all other public amusement and business
23 establishments.

24 (b) Public accommodation does not include an institution, club, or place of accommodation that
25 proves that it is by its nature distinctly private. An institution, club, or place of accommodation may not be
26 considered by its nature distinctly private if it has more than 100 members, provides regular meal service, and
27 regularly receives payment for dues, fees, use of space, facilities, services, meals, or beverages, directly or
28 indirectly, from or on behalf of nonmembers, for the furtherance of trade or business. For the purposes of this

subsection ~~(20)~~ (21), any lodge of a recognized national fraternal organization is considered by its nature distinctly private.

(22) "Vaccination status" means an indication of whether a person has received one or more doses of a vaccination."

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$500 from the general fund to the department of labor and industry for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, to provide online notice of immunity passport laws.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 49, chapter 2, part 3, and the provisions of Title 49, chapter 2, part 3, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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