

STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

REGARDING VETO OF SENATE BILL 34

I have consistently opposed vaccine passports and mandating any COVID-19 vaccination. However, this bill goes beyond COVID-19 and implements a one-size-fits-all approach for all infectious diseases. It significantly limits any government entity's response to any infectious disease outbreak.

As a result, this legislation creates significant safety concerns for workers, for employers, for the economy, and for all Kansans. Schools could not adequately respond to an outbreak of measles in a classroom, and manufacturing facilities could not respond to a tuberculosis outbreak.

Beyond that, our agricultural sector could not continue to fight the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). We have a responsibility to protect our critically important agricultural industry and the farmers and ranchers who feed the nation.

We need to be prepared for what's down the road to best protect Kansans. This bill puts the safety of all Kansans and our economy at risk.

Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto Substitute for Senate Bill 34.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

DATED

May 13, 2022

Substitute for SENATE BILL No. 34

AN ACT concerning public health; prohibiting a governmental entity or public official from ordering or otherwise requiring any individual to wear a face mask as a response to a contagious or infectious disease; prohibiting a governmental entity or public official from issuing or requiring use of a COVID-19 vaccination passport or discriminating against any individual based upon COVID-19 vaccination status; limiting powers of the governor and other governmental entities under the Kansas emergency management act related to face masks; modifying judicial review provisions related to certain executive orders issued during a state of disaster emergency and certain actions taken by a local unit of government during a state of local disaster emergency; requiring court petitions challenging orders and similar actions by public officials relating to gathering limitations, business restrictions and religious gathering limitations to be ruled on without unreasonable delay; restricting the power of the secretary of health and environment and local health officers to order law enforcement to assist in execution or enforcement of orders related to isolation or quarantine; prohibiting the secretary of health and environment from requiring a test or inoculation for admission to and attendance at a school that has not received full approval by the federal food and drug administration for the student to whom the requirement applies; amending K.S.A. 65-129b and 72-6262 and K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-925, 48-932 and 65-201 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a governmental entity or public official shall not order or otherwise require any individual to wear a face mask as a response to a contagious or infectious disease.

(b) A governmental entity or public official may recommend that any individual wear a face mask as a response to a contagious or infectious disease.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a governmental entity that is a medical care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto, or an adult care home as defined in K.S.A. 39-923, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 2. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a governmental entity or public official shall not:

(A) Issue a COVID-19 vaccination passport to any individual without such individual's consent;

(B) require any individual to use a COVID-19 vaccination passport within this state for any purpose; or

(C) deny housing to any individual or refuse access by any individual to a place accessible to the general public, or separate any individual from others in a place accessible to the general public, including entry, education, travel and services within this state, based on such individual's COVID-19 vaccination status.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a governmental entity or public official from instituting COVID-19 screening protocols in accordance with state and federal law to protect the public health.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a governmental entity that is a medical care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto, or an adult care home as defined in K.S.A. 39-923, and amendments thereto.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "COVID-19 vaccination passport" means written or electronic documentation of an individual's COVID-19 vaccination status; and

(2) "screening protocol" means a non-invasive method to determine whether an individual has symptoms or other risk factors for developing COVID-19, including, but not limited to, temperature checks, self-reporting of exposure, self-reported vaccination status and questionnaires.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-925 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-925. (a) During any state of disaster emergency declared under K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, the governor shall be commander-in-chief of the organized and unorganized militia and of all other forces available for emergency duty. To the greatest extent practicable, the governor shall delegate or assign command authority by

prior arrangement, embodied in appropriate executive orders or in rules and regulations of the adjutant general, but nothing shall restrict the authority of the governor to do so by executive orders issued at the time of a disaster.

(b) Under the provisions of this act and for the implementation of this act, the governor may issue executive orders to exercise the powers conferred by subsection (c) that have the force and effect of law during the period of a state of disaster emergency declared under K.S.A. 48-924(b), and amendments thereto, or as provided in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-924b, and amendments thereto. The chairperson of the legislative coordinating council shall call a meeting of the council to occur within 24 hours of the issuance of an executive order issued pursuant to this section for the purposes of reviewing such order. Such executive orders shall be null and void after the period of a state of disaster emergency has ended. Such executive orders may be revoked at any time by concurrent resolution of the legislature or, when the legislature is not in session or is adjourned during session for three or more days, such orders may be revoked by the legislative coordinating council with the affirmative vote of five members thereof.

(c) Except as provided in K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-924b, and amendments thereto, during a state of disaster emergency declared under K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, in addition to any other powers conferred upon the governor by law and subject to the provisions of subsections (d) and (e), the governor may:

(1) Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders or rules and regulations of any state agency which implements such statute, if strict compliance with the provisions of such statute, order or rule and regulation would prevent, hinder or delay in any way necessary action in coping with the disaster;

(2) utilize all available resources of the state government and of each political subdivision as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster;

(3) transfer the supervision, personnel or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency management activities;

(4) subject to any applicable requirements for compensation under K.S.A. 48-933, and amendments thereto, commandeer or utilize any private property if the governor finds such action necessary to cope with the disaster;

(5) direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any area of the state stricken or threatened by a disaster, if the governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;

(6) prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with such evacuation;

(7) control ingress and egress of persons and animals to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons and animals within the area and the occupancy by persons and animals of premises therein;

(8) suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives and combustibles;

(9) make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

(10) require and direct the cooperation and assistance of state and local governmental agencies and officials; and

(11) perform and exercise such other functions, powers and duties in conformity with the constitution and the bill of rights of the state of Kansas and with the statutes of the state of Kansas, except any regulatory statute specifically suspended under the authority of

subsection (c)(1), as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population.

(d) The governor shall not have the power or authority *under the provisions of the Kansas emergency management act or any other law* to:

(1) Limit or otherwise restrict the sale, purchase, transfer, ownership, storage, carrying or transporting of firearms or ammunition, or any component or combination thereof, including any components or combination thereof used in the manufacture of firearms or ammunition, or seize or authorize the seizure of any firearms or ammunition, or any component or combination thereto, except as otherwise permitted by state or federal law pursuant to subsection (c) (8) or any other executive authority;

~~(e) The governor shall not have the power under the provisions of the Kansas emergency management act or the provisions of any other law to~~

(2) alter or modify any provisions of the election laws of the state including, but not limited to, the method by which elections are conducted or the timing of such elections; *or*

(3) *order or otherwise require any individual to wear a face mask as a response to a contagious or infectious disease.*

(f) The governor shall exercise the powers conferred by subsection (c) by issuance of executive orders under subsection (b). Each executive order issued pursuant to the authority granted by subsection (b) shall specify the provision or provisions of subsection (c) by specific reference to each paragraph of subsection (c) that confers the power under which the executive order was issued. The adjutant general, subject to the direction of the governor, shall administer such executive orders.

(g) (1) Any party aggrieved by an executive order issued pursuant to this section that has the effect of substantially burdening or inhibiting the gathering or movement of individuals or the operation of any religious, civic, business or commercial activity, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, may file a civil action in the district court of the county in which such party resides or in the district court of Shawnee county, Kansas, within 30 days after the issuance of such executive order. Notwithstanding any order issued pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-172(a), and amendments thereto, the court shall conduct a hearing within 72 hours after receipt of a petition in any such action. The court shall grant the request for relief unless the court finds such executive order is narrowly tailored to respond to the state of disaster emergency and uses the least restrictive means to achieve such purpose. The court shall issue an order on such petition ~~within seven days~~ *without unreasonable delay* after the hearing is conducted. ~~If the court does not issue an order on such petition within seven days, the relief requested in the petition shall be granted.~~

(2) Relief under this section shall not include a stay or injunction concerning the contested executive order that applies beyond the county in which the petition was filed.

(3) The supreme court may adopt emergency rules of procedure to facilitate the efficient adjudication of any hearing requested under this subsection, including, but not limited to, rules for consolidation of similar hearings.

(h) (1) The board of county commissioners of any county may issue an order relating to public health that includes provisions that are less stringent than the provisions of an executive order effective statewide issued by the governor. Any board of county commissioners issuing such an order must make the following findings and include such findings in the order:

(A) The board has consulted with the local health officer or other local health officials regarding the governor's executive order;

(B) following such consultation, implementation of the full scope of the provisions in the governor's executive order are not necessary to protect the public health and safety of the county; and

(C) all other relevant findings to support the board's decision.

(2) If the board of county commissioners of a county issues an order pursuant to paragraph (1), such order shall operate in the county in lieu of the governor's executive order.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-932 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-932. (a) A state of local disaster emergency may be declared by the chairperson of the board of county commissioners of any county, or by the mayor or other principal executive officer of each city of this state having a disaster emergency plan, upon a finding by such officer that a disaster has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent within such county or city. No state of local disaster emergency shall be continued for a period in excess of seven days or renewed, except with the consent of the board of county commissioners of such county or the governing body of such city. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing or terminating a local disaster emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the county clerk or city clerk. Any such declaration may be reviewed, amended or revoked by the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the city, respectively, at a meeting of such governing body.

(b) In the event of the absence of the chairperson of the board of county commissioners from the county or the incapacity of such chairperson, the board of county commissioners, by majority action of the remaining members thereof, may declare a state of local disaster emergency in the manner provided in and subject to the provisions of subsection (a). In the event of the absence of the mayor or other principal executive officer of a city from the city or the incapacity of such mayor or officer, the governing body of the city, by majority action of the remaining members thereof, may declare a state of local disaster emergency in the manner provided in and subject to the provisions of subsection (a). Any state of local disaster emergency and any actions taken pursuant to applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans, under this subsection shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

(c) The declaration of a local disaster emergency shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans which are applicable to such county or city, and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance thereunder.

(d) No interjurisdictional disaster agency or any official thereof may declare a local disaster emergency, unless expressly authorized by the agreement pursuant to which the agency functions. However, an interjurisdictional disaster agency shall provide aid and services in accordance with the agreement pursuant to which it functions in the case of a state of local disaster emergency declared under subsection (a).

(e) (1) *A governmental entity or public official shall not have the power under the provisions of the Kansas emergency management act or any other law to order or otherwise require any individual to wear a face mask as a response to a contagious or infectious disease.*

(2) *The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a governmental entity that is a medical care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto, or an adult care home as defined in*

K.S.A. 39-923, and amendments thereto.

(f) (1) Any party aggrieved by an action taken by a local unit of government pursuant to this section that has the effect of substantially burdening or inhibiting the gathering or movement of individuals or the operation of any religious, civic, business or commercial activity, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, may file a civil action in the district court of the county in which such action was taken within 30 days after such action is taken. Notwithstanding any order issued pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-172(a), and amendments thereto, the court shall conduct a hearing within 72 hours after receipt of a petition in any such action. The court shall grant the request for relief unless the court finds such action is narrowly tailored to respond to the state of local disaster emergency and uses the least restrictive means to achieve such purpose. The court shall issue an order on such petition ~~within seven days~~ *without unreasonable delay* after the hearing is conducted. ~~If the court does not issue an order on such petition within seven days, the relief requested in the petition shall be granted.~~

(2) Relief under this section shall not include a stay or injunction concerning the contested action that applies beyond the county in which the action was taken.

(3) The supreme court may adopt emergency rules of procedure to facilitate the efficient adjudication of any hearing requested under this subsection, including, but not limited to, rules for consolidation of similar hearings.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 65-129b is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-129b. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 65-119, 65-122, 65-123, 65-126 and 65-128, and amendments thereto, and any rules or regulations adopted thereunder, in investigating actual or potential exposures to an infectious or contagious disease that is potentially life-threatening, the local health officer or the secretary:

(1) ~~(A)~~ May issue an order requiring an individual who the local health officer or the secretary has reason to believe has been exposed to an infectious or contagious disease to seek appropriate and necessary evaluation and treatment;

~~(B)~~(2) when the local health officer or the secretary determines that it is medically necessary and reasonable to prevent or reduce the spread of the disease or outbreak believed to have been caused by the exposure to an infectious or contagious disease, may order an individual or group of individuals to go to and remain in places of isolation or quarantine until the local health officer or the secretary determines that the individual no longer poses a substantial risk of transmitting the disease or condition to the public;

~~(C)~~(3) if a competent individual of 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor refuses vaccination, medical examination, treatment or testing under this section, may require the individual to go to and remain in a place of isolation or quarantine until the local health officer or the secretary determines that the individual no longer poses a substantial risk of transmitting the disease or condition to the public; and

~~(D)~~(4) if, on behalf of a minor child or ward, a parent or guardian refuses vaccination, medical examination, treatment or testing under this section, may require the minor child or ward to go to and remain in a place of isolation or quarantine and must allow the parent or guardian to accompany the minor child or ward until the local health officer or the secretary determines that the minor child or ward no longer poses a substantial risk of transmitting the disease or condition to the public; and

~~(2) may order any sheriff, deputy sheriff or other law enforcement officer of the state or any subdivision to assist in the execution or~~

~~enforcement of any order issued under this section.~~

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 65-201 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-201. (a) The board of county commissioners of each county shall act as the county board of health for the county. Each county board shall appoint a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, preference being given to persons who have training in public health, who shall serve as the local health officer and who shall act in an advisory capacity to the county board of health. The appointing authority of city-county, county or multicounty health units with less than 100,000 population may appoint a qualified local health program administrator as the local health officer if a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or person licensed to practice dentistry is designated as a consultant to direct the administrator on program and related medical and professional matters. The local health officer or local health program administrator shall hold office at the pleasure of the board.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any order issued by the local health officer, including orders issued as a result of an executive order of the governor, may be reviewed, amended or revoked by the board of county commissioners of the county affected by such order at a meeting of the board. Any order reviewed or amended by the board shall include an expiration date set by the board and may be amended or revoked at an earlier date by a majority vote of the board.

(2) ~~If a local health officer determines it is necessary to issue an order mandating the wearing of face masks,~~ limiting the size of gatherings of individuals, curtailing the operation of business, controlling the movement of the population of the county or limiting religious gatherings, the local health officer shall propose such an order to the board of county commissioners. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board or at a special meeting of the board, the board shall review such proposed order and may take any action related to the proposed order the board determines is necessary. The order shall become effective if approved by the board or, if the board is unable to meet, if approved by the chairperson of the board or the vice chairperson of the board in the chairperson's absence or disability.

(c) The board of county commissioners in any county having a population of less than 15,000 may contract with the governing body of any hospital located in such county for the purpose of authorizing such governing body of the hospital to supply services to a county board of health.

(d) (1) Any party aggrieved by an order issued pursuant to subsection (b)(2) may file a civil action in the district court of the county in which the order was issued within 30 days after such order is issued. Notwithstanding any order issued pursuant to K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 20-172(a), and amendments thereto, the court shall conduct a hearing within 72 hours after receipt of a petition in any such action. The court shall grant the request for relief unless the court finds such order is narrowly tailored to the purpose stated in the order and uses the least restrictive means to achieve such purpose. The court shall issue an order on such petition ~~within seven days~~ *without unnecessary delay* after the hearing is conducted. ~~If the court does not issue an order on such petition within seven days, the relief requested in the petition shall be granted.~~

(2) Relief under this section shall not include a stay or injunction concerning the contested action that applies beyond the county in which the action was taken.

(3) The supreme court may adopt emergency rules of procedure to facilitate the efficient adjudication of any hearing requested under this subsection, including, but not limited to, rules for consolidation of

similar hearings.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 72-6262 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-6262. (a) (1) In each school year, every ~~pupil~~ *student* enrolling or enrolled in any school for the first time in this state, and each child enrolling or enrolled for the first time in a preschool or day care program operated by a school, and such other ~~pupils~~ *students* as may be designated by the secretary, prior to admission to and attendance at school, shall present to the appropriate school board certification from a physician or local health department that the ~~pupil~~ *student* has received such tests and inoculations as are deemed necessary by the secretary by such means as are approved by the secretary. ~~Pupils~~ *Students* who have not completed the required inoculations may enroll or remain enrolled while completing the required inoculations if a physician or local health department certifies that the ~~pupil~~ *student* has received the most recent appropriate inoculations in all required series. Failure to timely complete all required series shall be deemed non-compliance.

(2) *A test or inoculation shall not be deemed necessary by the secretary if such test or inoculation has not received full approval by the federal food and drug administration for the age of the student to whom the requirement applies.*

(b) As an alternative to the certification required under subsection (a), a ~~pupil~~ *student* shall present:

(1) An annual written statement signed by a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child to be such that the tests or inoculations would seriously endanger the life or health of the child; or

(2) a written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations.

(c) On or before May 15 of each school year, the school board of every school affected by this act shall notify the parents or guardians of all known ~~pupils~~ *students* who are enrolled or who will be enrolling in the school of the provisions this act and any policy regarding the implementation of the provisions of this act adopted by the school board.

(d) If a ~~pupil~~ *student* transfers from one school to another, the school from which the ~~pupil~~ *student* transfers shall forward with the ~~pupil's~~ *student's* transcript the certification or statement showing evidence of compliance with the requirements of this act to the school to which the ~~pupil~~ *student* transfers.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 65-129b and 72-6262 and K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 48-925, 48-932 and 65-201 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

SENATE adopted

Conference Committee Report _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the HOUSE

as amended _____

HOUSE adopted

Conference Committee Report _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

APPROVED _____

Governor.