**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**H. 4561**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Wooten, Huggins, Caskey, B. Cox, Fry, Ballentine, Oremus, Crawford, Bradley, Taylor, Haddon, Kimmons, Trantham, Morgan, Willis, Thayer, Gilliam, Bailey, D.C. Moss, Dabney, McCravy, Forrest, Bustos, M.M. Smith, Hewitt, Bennett, McGarry and Jones

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Introduced in the House on January 11, 2022

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Judiciary**

Summary: Prohibition on Vaccinations for First Responders

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

11/10/2021 House Prefiled

11/10/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary**

1/11/2022 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 55](file:///h:\hj\20220111.docx))

1/11/2022 House Referred to Committee on **Judiciary** ([House Journal‑page 55](file:///h:\hj\20220111.docx))

1/12/2022 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Jones

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4561&session=124&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[11/10/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\4561_20211110.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 8‑15‑80 SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE STATE AND ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS FROM REQUIRING A COVID‑19 VACCINATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 15, Title 8 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 8‑15‑80. (A) Neither the State, nor any of its political subdivisions, may compel a person employed as a first responder to undergo a vaccination to prevent COVID‑19. If a first responder does not undergo vaccination, the first responder may not be subjected to an adverse employment action including, but not limited to, a termination, suspension, involuntary reassignment, or demotion. Any first responder aggrieved by an employer in violation of this section may bring a private cause of action to restore the first responder’s position and to have the employer pay any court costs and legal fees, as well as any punitive damages determined appropriate.

(B) For purposes of this section, ‘first responder’ means a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic who is paid from public funds.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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