

SENATE BILL No. 391

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

1-24

1 AN ACT concerning public health; relating to infectious or contagious
2 diseases; changing the authority of the secretary of health and
3 environment and local health officers; naming the constitutional right to
4 health freedom act; revoking the authority of the secretary to order
5 individuals to isolate or quarantine and impose penalties for violations
6 thereof; amending K.S.A. 65-116g, 65-118, 65-119, 65-128, 65-129b
7 and 65-129d and K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-101, 65-202 and 72-5180 and
8 repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 65-126, 65-127,
9 65-129 and 65-129c.

10
11 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

12 New Section 1. The amendments made to K.S.A. 65-101, 65-202, 65-
13 116g, 65-118, 65-119, 65-128, 65-129b and 65-129d by this act shall be
14 known as the constitutional right to health freedom act.

15 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-101 is hereby amended to read as
16 follows: 65-101. (a) The secretary of health and environment shall exercise
17 general supervision of the health of the people of the state and may:

18 (1) Where authorized by any other statute, require reports from
19 appropriate persons relating to the health of the people of the state so a
20 determination of the causes of sickness and death among the people of the
21 state may be made through the use of these reports and other records;

22 (2) investigate the causes of disease, including especially, epidemics
23 and endemics, the causes of mortality and effects of locality, employments,
24 conditions, food, water supply, habits and other circumstances affecting
25 the health of the people of this state and the causes of sickness and death;

26 (3) advise other offices and agencies of government concerning
27 location, drainage, water supply, disposal of excreta and heating and
28 ventilation of public buildings;

29 (4) make sanitary inspection and survey of such places and localities
30 as the secretary deems advisable;

31 (5) ~~take action~~ *recommend ways* to prevent the introduction of
32 infectious or contagious disease into this state and to prevent the spread of
33 infectious or contagious disease within this state; *and*

34 (6) provide public health outreach services to the people of the state
35 including educational and other activities designed to increase the
36 individual's awareness and appropriate use of public and other preventive

1 health services.

2 (b) The secretary of health and environment may adopt ~~rules and~~
3 ~~regulations~~ *policies* necessary to carry out the provisions of subsection (a).
4 ~~In addition to other remedies provided by law, the secretary is authorized~~
5 ~~to apply to the district court, and such court shall have jurisdiction upon a~~
6 ~~hearing and for cause shown to grant a temporary or permanent injunction~~
7 ~~to compel compliance with such rules and regulations.~~

8 (c) *The secretary of health and environment shall not carry out the*
9 *provisions of subsection (a) or (b) in a manner that conflicts with any*
10 *other statute or otherwise expands the authority of the secretary.*

11 (d) In the event of a state of disaster emergency declared by the
12 governor pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, or a state of
13 local disaster emergency declared pursuant to K.S.A. 48-932, and
14 amendments thereto, the legislature may revoke an order issued by the
15 secretary to take action related to such disaster emergency as provided in
16 this subsection. Such order may be revoked at any time by concurrent
17 resolution of the legislature or, when the legislature is not in session or is
18 adjourned during session for three or more days, such order may be
19 revoked by the legislative coordinating council with the affirmative vote of
20 five members thereof.

21 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 65-116g is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
22 116g. ~~(a) It shall be unlawful for any person who violates to:~~

23 ~~(1)(a) Violate any provision of this act, K.S.A. 65-116a through~~
24 ~~K.S.A. 65-116m, and amendments thereto, relating to tuberculosis or any~~
25 ~~associated rules or regulations of the secretary of health and environment~~
26 ~~for the enforcement of this act, or K.S.A. 65-116a through K.S.A. 65-116m,~~
27 ~~and amendments thereto;~~

28 ~~(2)(b) violates violate any of the rules or regulations of any an~~
29 ~~institution while a patient therein; or~~

30 ~~(3)(c) conducts himself in a engage in disorderly manner, shall be~~
31 ~~guilty of conduct, as described in K.S.A. 21-6203, and amendments~~
32 ~~thereto.~~

33 ~~(b) Violation of this section is a class C nonperson misdemeanor.~~

34 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 65-118 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-118.

35 (a) Whenever any person licensed to practice the healing arts or engaged in
36 a postgraduate training program approved by the state board of healing
37 arts, licensed dentist, licensed professional nurse, licensed practical nurse,
38 administrator of a hospital, licensed adult care home administrator, ~~or,~~
39 licensed physician assistant, ~~licensed social worker, teacher or school~~
40 ~~administrator, licensed social worker, teacher or school administrator~~
41 knows or has information indicating that a person is suffering from or has
42 died from a reportable infectious or contagious disease as defined in rules
43 and regulations, such knowledge or information shall be reported

1 immediately to the county or joint board of health or the local health
2 officer, together with the name and address of the person who has or is
3 suspected of having the infectious or contagious disease, or the name and
4 former address of the deceased individual who had or was suspected of
5 having such a disease. In the case of a licensed hospital or adult care
6 home, the administrator may designate an individual to receive and make
7 such reports. The secretary of health and environment shall, through rules
8 and regulations, make provision for the consolidation of reports required to
9 be made under this section when the person required to make the report is
10 working in a licensed hospital or adult care home. Laboratories certified
11 under the federal clinical laboratories improvement act pursuant to ~~42 code~~
12 ~~of federal regulations~~, *C.F.R. part 493* shall report the results of
13 microbiologic cultures, examinations, and immunologic essays for the
14 presence of antigens and antibodies and any other laboratory tests which
15 are indicative of the presence of a reportable infectious or contagious
16 disease to the department of health and environment. The director of the
17 division of public health may use information from death certificates for
18 disease investigation purposes.

19 (b) Any person who is an individual member of a class of persons
20 designated under subsection (a) of this section and who reports the
21 information required to be reported under such subsection in good faith
22 and without malice to a county or joint board of health, a local health
23 officer or the department of health and environment shall have immunity
24 from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or
25 imposed in an action resulting from such report. Any such person shall
26 have the same immunity with respect to participation in any judicial
27 proceeding resulting from such report.

28 (c) Information required to be reported under subsection (a) ~~of this~~
29 ~~section~~ shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed or made public,
30 upon subpoena or otherwise, beyond the requirements of subsection (a) ~~of~~
31 ~~this section~~ or ~~subsection (a) of K.S.A. 65-119(a)~~, and amendments
32 thereto, except such information may be disclosed:

33 (1) If no person can be identified in the information to be disclosed
34 and the disclosure is for statistical purposes;

35 (2) if all persons who are identifiable in the information to be
36 disclosed consent in writing to its disclosure;

37 (3) if the disclosure is necessary, and only to the extent necessary, to
38 protect the public health;

39 (4) if a medical emergency exists and the disclosure is to medical
40 personnel qualified to treat infectious or contagious diseases. Any
41 information disclosed pursuant to this paragraph shall be disclosed only to
42 the extent necessary to protect the health or life of a named party; or

43 (5) if the information to be disclosed is required in a court proceeding

1 involving child abuse and the information is disclosed in camera.

2 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 65-119 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-119.

3 (a) Any county or joint board of health or local health officer having
4 knowledge of any infectious or contagious disease, or of a death from such
5 disease, within their jurisdiction, shall immediately exercise and maintain
6 a supervision over such case or cases during their continuance, seeing that
7 all such cases are properly cared for and that the provisions of this act ~~as~~
8 ~~pertaining to isolation, restriction of communication, quarantine and~~
9 ~~disinfection are duly enforced. The county or joint board of health or local~~
10 ~~health officer shall communicate without delay all information as~~
11 ~~pertaining to existing conditions to the secretary of health and~~
12 ~~environment. The local health officer shall confer personally, if~~
13 ~~practicable, otherwise by letter, with the person in attendance upon the~~
14 ~~case, as to its future management and control. The county or joint board of~~
15 ~~health or local health officer is hereby empowered and authorized to~~
16 ~~prohibit~~ *may recommend against* public gatherings when necessary for the
17 control of any and all infectious or contagious disease.

18 (b) Any disclosure or communication of information relating to
19 infectious or contagious diseases required to be disclosed or
20 communicated under subsection (a) ~~of this section~~ shall be confidential
21 and shall not be disclosed or made public beyond the requirements of
22 subsection (a) ~~of this section~~ or ~~subsection (a) of~~ K.S.A. 65-118(a), *and*
23 *amendments thereto*, except as otherwise permitted by ~~subsection (c) of~~
24 K.S.A. 65-118(c), *and amendments thereto*.

25 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 65-128 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-128.

26 (a) For the protection of the public health and for the control of infectious
27 or contagious diseases, the secretary of health and environment ~~by rules~~
28 ~~and regulations shall designate~~ *submit a report of designate* such diseases
29 ~~as that~~ are infectious or contagious in their nature ~~to the speaker of the~~
30 ~~house of representatives and the president of the senate~~.

31 (b) The secretary of health and environment is authorized to ~~issue~~
32 ~~such orders and adopt rules and regulations as may be medically necessary~~
33 ~~and reasonable~~ *recommend ways* to prevent the spread and dissemination
34 of diseases injurious to the public health, ~~including, but not limited to,~~
35 ~~providing for the testing for such diseases~~ *including, but not limited to,*
36 *providing for the testing for such diseases* and *may recommend* the
37 isolation and quarantine of persons afflicted with ~~or exposed to~~ such
38 diseases.

39 (c) ~~No later than January 1, 2014, The secretary shall develop and~~
40 ~~adopt rules and regulations providing for~~ *make recommendations for*
41 *preventing the introduction and spread of infectious or contagious disease*
42 *within this state and* the protection of individuals who provide medical or
43 nursing services, clinical or forensic laboratory services, emergency

1 medical services and firefighting, law enforcement and correctional
 2 services, or who provide any other service, or individuals who receive any
 3 such services or are in any other employment where the individual may
 4 encounter occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious
 5 materials.

6 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 65-129b is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
 7 129b. ~~(a)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 65-119, 65-122, 65-
 8 123, ~~65-126~~ and 65-128, and amendments thereto, and any rules or
 9 regulations adopted thereunder, in investigating actual or potential
 10 exposures to an infectious or contagious disease that is potentially life-
 11 threatening, the local health officer ~~or the secretary~~:

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

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

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

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

38 ~~(2)~~ may order any sheriff, deputy sheriff or other law enforcement
 39 officer of the state or any subdivision to assist in the execution or
 40 enforcement of any order issued under this section.

41 *(e) The local health officer shall submit recommendations related*
 42 *to the isolation or quarantine of individuals under this section to the*
 43 *board of county commissioners as a proposed order. At the next*

1 *regularly scheduled meeting of the board or at a special meeting of the*
2 *board, the board shall review such proposed order and may take any*
3 *action related to the proposed order that the board determines is*
4 *necessary. The proposed order shall become effective if approved by the*
5 *board or, if the board is unable to meet, if approved by the chairperson*
6 *of the board or the vice chairperson of the board in the chairperson's*
7 *absence or disability.*

8 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 65-129d is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
9 129d. ~~It shall be unlawful for any~~ A public or private employer ~~to shall not~~
10 discharge an employee solely because the employee or an immediate
11 family member of the employee is ~~under an order of~~ following an isolation
12 or quarantine recommendation from a local health officer or solely
13 because of such employee's vaccination status. ~~The violation of this~~
14 ~~section is punishable as a violation of K.S.A. 65-129, and amendments~~
15 ~~thereto~~ In an action against an employer for a violation of this section, the
16 court shall award a prevailing plaintiff the actual damages such person
17 sustained, costs and reasonable attorney fees.

18 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-202 is hereby amended to read as
19 follows: 65-202. (a) The local health officer in each county throughout the
20 state, immediately after such officer's appointment, shall:

21 (1) Take the same oath of office prescribed by law for the county
22 officers, ~~shall~~;

23 (2) give bond of \$500 conditioned for the faithful performance of the
24 officer's duties, ~~shall~~;

25 (3) keep an accurate record of all the transactions of such office,
26 ~~shall~~;

27 (4) turn over to the successor in office or to the county or joint board
28 of health selecting such officer, on the expiration of such officer's term of
29 office, all records, documents and other articles belonging to the office;
30 and ~~shall~~

31 (5) faithfully account to *the* board of county commissioners and to the
32 county and state for all moneys coming into the office. Such officer shall
33 notify the secretary of health and environment of such officer's
34 appointment and qualification, and provide the secretary with such
35 officer's contact information.

36 (b) Such officer shall receive and distribute without delay in the
37 county all forms from the secretary of health and environment to the
38 rightful persons, all returns from persons licensed to practice medicine and
39 surgery, assessors and local boards to said secretary, shall keep an accurate
40 record of all of the transactions of such office and shall turn over all
41 records and documents kept by such officer, the successor in office, or to
42 the county or joint board electing such officer, on the expiration of the
43 term of office.

1 (c) The local health officer shall upon the opening of the fall term of
2 school, make a sanitary inspection of each school building and grounds,
3 and shall make such additional inspections as are necessary to protect the
4 public health of the students of the school.

5 ~~(e)~~(d) (1) Such officer shall make an investigation of each case of
6 smallpox, diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, acute anterior
7 poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis and
8 such other acute infectious, contagious or communicable diseases as may
9 be required, and shall use all ~~known~~ *medically necessary and reasonable*
10 measures to prevent the spread of any such infectious, contagious or
11 communicable disease, and shall perform such other duties as this act, the
12 county or joint board; ~~or board of health or the secretary of health and~~
13 ~~environment~~ may require.

14 (2) ~~Any order issued by the local health officer, including Orders~~
15 issued as a result of an executive order of the governor, on behalf of a
16 county regarding the remediation of any infectious disease may be
17 reviewed, amended or revoked by the board of county commissioners of
18 any county affected by such order in the manner provided by K.S.A. 65-
19 201(b), and amendments thereto.

20 (e) Such officer shall receive compensation as set by the board and,
21 with the approval of the board of health, may employ a skilled professional
22 nurse and other additional personnel whenever deemed necessary for the
23 protection of the public health.

24 (f) *For* any failure or neglect of the local health officer to perform any
25 of the duties prescribed in this act, the officer may be removed from office
26 by the county board of health. In addition to removal from office; for any
27 failure or neglect to perform any of the duties prescribed by this act, the
28 local health officer shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
29 conviction, be fined not less \$10 nor more than \$100 for each ~~and every~~
30 offense.

31 Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 72-5180 is hereby amended to read as
32 follows: 72-5180. (a) Commencing in the 2021-2022 school year, except
33 as otherwise provided in this section, no school district shall provide or
34 offer to any student enrolled in the district more than a total of 40 school
35 term hours of remote learning unless:

36 (1) The board of education of the school district has authorized a
37 student to temporarily attend school through remote learning in excess of
38 the 40-hour limitation pursuant to a temporary individual exemption
39 granted pursuant to subsection (b); or

40 (2) due to a disaster, the state board of education has authorized the
41 school district to conduct remote learning in excess of the 40-hour
42 limitation pursuant to subsection (c) or has waived the limitations provided
43 in subsection (d).

1 (b) The board of education of a school district may temporarily
2 suspend the remote learning limitation provided in subsection (a) on an
3 individual student basis for any student who cannot reasonably attend
4 school in person due to an illness, medical condition, injury or any other
5 extraordinary circumstance that would necessitate remote learning to allow
6 the student to continue to receive an education during the existence of such
7 circumstance. The board of education of the school district shall notify the
8 state board of any individual exemptions provided pursuant to this
9 subsection and the reason for such exemption.

10 (c) The state board of education may authorize a school district to
11 exceed the 40-hour remote learning limitation upon application by the
12 school district. The application may be granted by the state board of
13 education upon:

14 (1) Certification by a school district that, due to a disaster, conditions
15 resulting from widespread or severe property damage caused by the
16 disaster or other conditions restricting the operation of public schools will
17 exist in the school district for an inordinate period of time; and

18 (2) a determination by the state board that the school district cannot
19 reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with the requirements of this
20 section unless remote learning is conducted for a period of time not to
21 exceed 240 school term hours, unless such limitation is waived by the state
22 board pursuant to subsection (d).

23 (d) The state board of education may waive the requirements of law
24 relating to the remote learning limitations pursuant to subsection (c) in any
25 school year upon application for such waiver by a school district. The
26 waiver may be granted by the state board of education upon:

27 (1) Certification by a board of education that, due to a disaster,
28 conditions resulting from widespread or severe property damage caused by
29 the disaster or other conditions restricting the operation of public schools
30 will exist in the school district for an inordinate period of time; and

31 (2) a determination by the state board that the school district cannot
32 reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with such requirements of law
33 and that remote learning beyond the limitations provided in subsection (c)
34 is necessary to allow the school district to continue to provide education to
35 students during such conditions.

36 (e) (1) Any student who attends a school of a school district through
37 remote learning in excess of the remote learning limitations provided
38 pursuant to this section shall be deemed a remote learning student and
39 shall be counted as a remotely enrolled student for state aid purposes.

40 (2) On or before June 30 of each school year:

41 (A) A school district that offers remote learning during the school
42 year shall determine the remote enrollment of the district based on the
43 number of students remotely enrolled in accordance with this section;

1 (B) the clerk or superintendent of each school district shall certify
2 under oath to the state board a report showing the remote enrollment of the
3 school district determined pursuant to this subsection by the grades
4 maintained in the schools of the school district. The state board shall
5 examine such reports upon receipt, and if the state board finds any errors
6 in any such report, the state board shall consult with the school district
7 officer furnishing the report and make any necessary corrections in the
8 report; and

9 (C) the state board shall determine the number of students who were
10 included in the remote enrollment of each school district and recompute
11 the enrollment of the school district as required pursuant to this subsection.

12 (3) A school district that offers remote learning and is determined to
13 have remotely enrolled students pursuant to this section shall receive
14 remote enrollment state aid. The state board shall determine the amount of
15 remote enrollment state aid a school district is to receive by multiplying
16 the remote enrollment of the school district by \$5,000. No remote
17 enrollment state aid shall be provided for any student who participates in
18 remote learning on a part-time basis during the school day.

19 (4) The state board shall notify each school district of the amount of
20 remote enrollment state aid the district shall receive pursuant to this
21 section and, pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5136, and amendments thereto, shall:

22 (A) Require the district to remit any such amount of overpayment
23 made to the district in the current school year; or

24 (B) deduct the excess amounts paid to the district from future
25 payments made to the school district.

26 (5) If a student is included in the remote enrollment of a district
27 pursuant to this subsection, such student shall not be included in the
28 adjusted enrollment of the district in the current school year.

29 (f) Each school district that determines remote enrollment pursuant to
30 this section shall submit any documentation or information required by the
31 state board.

32 (g) As used in this section, "disaster" means a state of disaster
33 emergency declared by proclamation of the governor pursuant to K.S.A.
34 48-924, and amendments thereto, closure of schools by order issued by a
35 county or joint board of health, a local health officer pursuant to K.S.A.
36 65-119, and amendments thereto, ~~or the secretary of health and~~
37 ~~environment pursuant to K.S.A. 65-126, and amendments thereto;~~ or
38 occurrence of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or
39 property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including, but not
40 limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, wind, storm, an epidemic, air
41 contamination, blight, drought, infestation or explosion.

42 (h) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the Kansas
43 school equity and enhancement act.

1 ~~(i) This section shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1,~~
2 ~~2021.~~

3 Sec. 11. K.S.A. 65-116g, 65-118, 65-119, 65-126, 65-127, 65-128,
4 65-129, 65-129b, 65-129c and 65-129d and K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-101,
5 65-202 and 72-5180 are hereby repealed.

6 Sec. 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
7 publication in the statute book.