

GOAT HILL FINAL REPORT

October/November 2021 Special Session



Members of the Alabama County Family,

On November 4, the Alabama Legislature concluded its second special session of 2021. As directed by Gov. Kay Ivey, lawmakers addressed the need for statewide reapportionment and appropriated \$80 million of the State's American Rescue Plan Act funds to Alabama hospitals and nursing homes. Additionally, support by two-thirds of the legislative body prompted the consideration and passage of two COVID-19 vaccination bills, a policy endeavor not listed in the Governor's official call for a special session.

For your reference, a summary of the enacted legislation from the October/November 2021 Special Session is provided below.

Sincerely,
Your Association Staff

Enacted Legislation from October/November 2021 Special Session

[Act 2021-555 by Rep. Chris Pringle](#)

Provides for the reapportionment and redistricting of the state's U.S. Congressional districts based on the 2020 federal census. **Effective November 4, 2021.**

[Act 2021-556 by Rep. Chris Pringle](#)

Provides for the reapportionment of the state into districts for the purpose of electing members of the Alabama House of Representatives until the release of the next federal census. **Effective November 4, 2021.**

[Act 2021-557 by Rep. Steve Clouse](#)

Provides a supplemental appropriation of available funds from the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in the amount of \$80 million dollars to Alabama hospitals and nursing homes to support the delivery of healthcare and related services to the citizens of Alabama. **Effective November 4, 2021.**

[Act 2021-558 by Sen. Jim McClendon](#)

Provides for the reapportionment of the state into districts for the purpose of electing members of the Alabama Senate until the release of the next federal census. **Effective November 4, 2021.**

[Act 2021-559 by Sen. Jim McClendon](#)

Provides for the reapportionment and redistricting of the State Board of Education districts based on the 2020 federal census. **Effective November 4, 2021.**

[Act 2021-560 by Sen. Arthur Orr](#)

Provides that a minor may not receive a COVID-19 vaccination without parental consent; prohibits an educational institution from inquiring about a minor student's vaccine status without parental consent; and provides that the Alabama Attorney General may commence civil action to enjoin a threatened or continuing violation of this act. **Effective November 5, 2021.**

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Enacted Legislation (Continued)

Act 2021-561 by Sen. Chris Elliott

Under this new act, an employer may not require an employee to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment without providing the employee the opportunity to be exempted for religious or medical reasons. The act defines “vaccination” broadly to mean any injection intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or to minimize the effects of COVID-19.

The act allows for the creation of a form that employees should fill out and submit to their employer if they want to claim an exemption. Turning in a completed exemption form to an employer creates the presumption that the employee does not have to be vaccinated. On the form, employees may check one or more of the following reasons for refusing the vaccination:

- “My health care provider has recommended to me that I refuse the COVID-19 vaccination based on my current health conditions and medications.
(NOTE: You must include a licensed health care provider’s signature on this form to claim this exemption.)”
- “I have previously suffered a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) related to vaccinations in the past.”
- “I have previously suffered a severe allergic reaction related to receiving polyethylene glycol or products containing polyethylene glycol.”
- “I have previously suffered a severe allergic reaction related to receiving polysorbate or products containing polysorbate.”
- “I have received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of a COVID-19 treatment in the past 90 days.”
- “I have a bleeding disorder or am taking a blood thinner.”
- “I am severely immunocompromised such that receiving the COVID-19 vaccination creates a risk to my health.”
- “I have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 12 months.”
- “Receiving the COVID-19 vaccination conflicts with my sincerely held religious beliefs, practices or observances.”

If the employer denies the employee’s request for exemption, this act gives the employee the right to file an appeal with the Alabama Department of Labor. The Department of Labor has until November 26, 2021, to adopt procedures for this appeals process. While the appeals process is being developed, any employee whose request for exemption is denied and who fails to receive a vaccination must be paid full compensation until the deadline to appeal passes.

- ▶ **ACCA recommends counties take no formal action on the provisions of this act until the Department of Labor finalizes an employee exemption form and procedures for the appeals process. Effective November 5, 2021.**