South Carolina Senate Passes Legislation that Bans Covid-19 Vaccine Requirements

Description

USA: The South Carolina Senate passed a bill on Wednesday prohibiting businesses from refusing to serve unvaccinated people and preventing government employees, first responders, and students from taking the Covid-19 shot.

South Carolina Senate passed the bill with 29-12 votes. Not a single Democrat in the Senate voted for the revised bill, according to the State report.

Last December, SC Republican House leaders voted to ban Covid-19 vaccines for state and local government employees, contractors, and public school students.

AP reported:

> The Senate approved the bill 29-12 on Wednesday. Senators made changes to a House bill which that chamber passed in December, meaning the proposal returns to the House to see if it accepts those changes.
>
> Senators initially put in a large unemployment tax penalty for private businesses that fired unvaccinated workers. But instead they compromised to allow fired workers to collect unemployment benefits, retroactive to the last nine months.
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> Opponents of the Republican-backed bill questioned why a group that typically says government shouldn't tell businesses what to do is taking up this fight.
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> Supporters of the bill said they were trying to protect the choice of people who don't want to take the COVID-19 vaccine.
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> The proposal bans state and local governments and public schools from requiring vaccines for their employers, contractors or students and also says first responders can't be fired for

refusing a COVID-19 shot.

The House can either agree to the Senate's changes, sending the bill to Gov. Henry McMaster's desk, or insist on its version of the bill, meaning a small group of House members and senators will have to work on a compromise between the two versions.

By Jim Hoft

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