



SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HOUSE BILL 278

“An Act relating to vaccination equivalents for COVID-19”

House Bill 278 (HB 278) recognizes that a person who has experienced infection of COVID-19 and can present measurable antibody test results, which indicate proof of natural immunity, cannot have their employment threatened and/or be denied access to areas due to lack of proof of imposed vaccination.

The definition of immunity is “the ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin by the action of specific antibodies or sensitized white blood cells.” Further definitions are “the lack of susceptibility, especially to something unwelcome or harmful” and “protection or exemption from something.” Herd immunity is “the reduction in the likelihood of someone catching a specific infection disease because a significant proportion of people in that person’s community are immune to it.” The definition of vaccination is “the administration of a vaccine to help the immune system develop immunity from a disease.”

HB 278 recognizes universal medical and general definitions regarding immunity and COVID-19 for Alaskans. Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in a plethora of research, including “definitive conclusions” which have then been altered or amended based on additional discovery or political correctness.

Concerning COVID-19, people have been categorized as either vaccinated or unvaccinated. The description of vaccinated has been strictly the external inoculation of COVID-19 via a medical treatment. Unfortunately, this paradigm of categorization does not include those individuals who have been inoculated through natural infection and natural immunity. Therefore, a third categorization must be added by including naturally vaccinated. Therefore, three exposure types would be: 1) vaccinated; 2) non-infected; 3) infected with immunity.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA has approved or disapproved testing mechanisms for the COVID virus, including 1) PCR or molecular tests; 2) antigen tests; and 3) antibody or serology tests. The primary focus with the public has been with PCR and antigen tests that determine if a person is infected with COVID-19. There has been little emphasis on validating those who have immunity via antibody testing. As of December 29, 2021, the FDA has approved the following testing types regarding COVID-19: 235 molecular, 34 antigen, and 88 antibody.

In conclusion, the means of antibody testing does exist with FDA approval. There is an apparent large community of Alaskans who have immunity, yet it is unknown to them because such information was not pursued. HB 278 recognizes that such data collection is possible and available for Alaskans to ascertain their COVID-19 exposure and immunity thereof.

Therefore, HB 278 allows those who have already experienced COVID-19 infection and have recovered, showing physical resiliency to it, which is validated through measurable FDA approved antibody testing, to use their natural immunity to qualify for any vaccination requirement.
