HB 1623 2024

A bill to be entitled An act relating to emergencies; amending s. 252.36, F.S.; requiring legislative approval before the Governor is authorized to renew certain emergency provisions; requiring the Governor to review and redraft such provisions after a certain time period of time; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to prepare a report in certain circumstances; requiring such report to accompany the Governor's redraft of such provisions; providing authorized and prohibited actions of the Governor; providing that specified property is considered commandeered and compensation is required in certain circumstances; providing requirements for certain emergency provisions for a specified purpose; providing legislative intent; amending s. 381.00315, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "public health advisory"; revising required and authorized actions of the State Health Officer; providing legislative intent; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 252.36, Florida Statutes, are amended,

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and subsection (13) is added to that section, to read:

252.36 Emergency management powers of the Governor.—

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(b) Pursuant to the authority vested in her or him under paragraph (a), the Governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and rules and may amend or rescind them. Such executive orders, proclamations, and rules shall have the force and effect of law. An executive order, a proclamation, or a rule must be limited to a duration of not more than 60 days and may be renewed as necessary during the duration of the emergency. If renewed, the order, proclamation, or rule must specifically state which provisions are being renewed. An executive order, a proclamation, or a rule, if not revoked sooner, shall cease to have effect at the expiration of 60 days, unless such executive order, proclamation, or rule is approved by a resolution passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such a resolution may extend such executive order, proclamation, or rule for an additional 30 days. Such an extension, if not revoked sooner, shall cease to have effect at the expiration of the additional 30 days, unless such executive order, proclamation, or rule is approved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such a resolution may extend such executive order, proclamation, or rule for an additional 30 days. Each subsequent resolution, if not revoked sooner, shall cease to have effect at

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the expiration of the additional 30 days unless such executive order, proclamation, or rule is approved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such executive order, proclamation, or rule may not be extended for longer than 6 months without a full review and a redraft of such executive order, proclamation, or rule by the Governor. Such redraft must include a report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability that reviews the measures in such executive order, proclamation, or rule. The Governor may revoke any executive order, proclamation, or rule that has been approved by the Legislature under this paragraph before it would otherwise expire, provided that the Governor may not modify the effect of any measure that has been so approved without the concurrence of the Legislature. Upon the expiration of an executive order, proclamation, or rule, the Governor may not issue a substantially similar executive order, proclamation, or rule without the concurrence of the Legislature.

(c) The Legislature intends that, during an extended public health emergency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, there should be a presumption that K-12 public schools, to the greatest extent possible, should remain open so long as the health and safety of students and school personnel can be maintained by specific public health mitigation strategies recommended by federal or state health agencies for educational

settings. The Legislature also intends that during such an event, there be a presumption that businesses should remain open to the greatest extent possible so long as the health and safety of employees and customers can be reasonably protected by specific public health mitigation strategies recommended by federal or state health agencies, including, but not limited, to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

- 1. If the Governor declares by executive order or proclamation that the emergency requires closure of or restricted in-person attendance at K-12 public schools, the executive order or proclamation must contain specific reasons for those determinations, and he or she must review and reassess the situation at least every 30 days and certify in writing any need for such continued closure or restriction regularly.
- 2. If the Governor declares by executive order or proclamation that the emergency requires businesses to restrict their operations or close, the executive order or proclamation must contain specific reasons for those determinations, and he or she must review and reassess the situation at least every 30 days and certify in writing any need for such continued closure or restriction regularly. However, if such restrictions are imposed by the Governor on private businesses and continue for more than 14 days, any affected business is considered commandeered pursuant to paragraph (4) (d) and compensation must be paid pursuant to s. 252.43.

3. Any executive order, proclamation, or rule that limits the rights or liberties of individuals or businesses must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose. Any such measure must be limited in duration, applicability, and scope to reduce any infringement on individual rights or liberties to the greatest extent possible.

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A state of emergency must be declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor if she or he finds an emergency has occurred or that the occurrence or the threat thereof is imminent. The state of emergency must continue until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has been dealt with to the extent that the emergency conditions no longer exist and she or he terminates the state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than 60 days unless renewed by the Legislature under paragraph (1)(b) by the Governor. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this section must indicate the nature of the emergency, the area or areas threatened, and the conditions which brought the emergency about or which make possible its termination. An executive order or proclamation must be promptly disseminated by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and, unless the circumstances attendant upon the emergency prevent or impede such filing, the order or proclamation must be filed promptly with the Department of State, the President of the Senate and

the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the offices of the county commissioners in the counties to which the order or proclamation applies.

(13) It is the intent of the Legislature that the powers granted in this section may not be used in any way that infringes upon or limits any rights provided in Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 2. Paragraphs (b) through (g) of subsection (5) of section 381.00315, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (a) through (f), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2), and present paragraph (a) of subsection (5) are amended, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

381.00315 Public health advisories; public health emergencies; isolation and quarantines.—The State Health Officer is responsible for declaring public health emergencies, issuing public health advisories, and ordering isolation or quarantines.

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (b) "Public health advisory" means any warning or report giving information to the public about a potential public health threat. Before issuing any public health advisory, the State Health Officer must consult with any state or local agency regarding areas of responsibility which may be affected by such advisory. Upon determining that issuing a public health advisory is necessary to protect the public health and safety, and prior

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to issuing the advisory, the State Health Officer must notify each county health department within the area which is affected by the advisory of the State Health Officer's intent to issue the advisory. The State Health Officer is authorized to take any action appropriate to enforce any public health advisory.

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- (C) The State Health Officer, upon declaration of a public health emergency, shall establish by order the method and procedure for identifying and reporting cases and deaths involving the infectious disease or other occurrence identified as the basis for the declared public health emergency. The method and procedure must be consistent with any standards developed by the Federal Government specific to the declared emergency or, if federal standards do not exist, must be consistent with public health best practices as identified by the State Health Officer. During the pendency of a public health emergency, the department is the sole entity responsible for the collection and official reporting and publication of cases and deaths. The State Health Officer, by order or emergency rule, may ensure necessary assistance from licensed health care providers in carrying out this function and may request the assistance of district medical examiners in performing this function.
- (d) The State Health Officer, upon declaration of a public health emergency, may take actions that are necessary to protect

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the public health. Such actions include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Directing manufacturers of prescription drugs or overthe-counter drugs who are permitted under chapter 499 and
 wholesalers of prescription drugs located in this state who are
 permitted under chapter 499 to give priority to the shipping of
 specified drugs to pharmacies and health care providers within
 geographic areas identified by the State Health Officer. The
 State Health Officer must identify the drugs to be shipped.
 Manufacturers and wholesalers located in the state must respond
 to the State Health Officer's priority shipping directive before
 shipping the specified drugs.
- 2. Notwithstanding chapters 465 and 499 and rules adopted thereunder, directing pharmacists employed by the department to compound bulk prescription drugs and provide these bulk prescription drugs to physicians and nurses of county health departments or any qualified person authorized by the State Health Officer for administration to persons as part of a prophylactic or treatment regimen.
- 3. Notwithstanding s. 456.036, temporarily reactivating the inactive license of the following health care practitioners, when such practitioners are needed to respond to the public health emergency: physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; physician assistants licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses licensed under part I of

chapter 464; respiratory therapists licensed under part V of chapter 468; and emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified under part III of chapter 401. Only those health care practitioners specified in this paragraph who possess an unencumbered inactive license and who request that such license be reactivated are eligible for reactivation. An inactive license that is reactivated under this paragraph shall return to inactive status when the public health emergency ends or before the end of the public health emergency if the State Health Officer determines that the health care practitioner is no longer needed to provide services during the public health emergency. Such licenses may only be reactivated for a period not to exceed 90 days without meeting the requirements of s. 456.036 or chapter 401, as applicable.

- 4. Ordering an individual to be examined, tested, treated, isolated, or quarantined for communicable diseases that have significant morbidity or mortality and present a severe danger to public health. Individuals who are unable or unwilling to be examined, tested, or treated for reasons of health, religion, or conscience may not be may be subjected to isolation or quarantine without a due process hearing.
- a. Examination, testing, or treatment may be performed by any qualified person authorized by the State Health Officer.
- b. If the individual poses a danger to the public health, the State Health Officer may subject the individual to isolation

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or quarantine.	If there is no practical method to isolate or	
quarantine the	individual, the State Health Officer may use ar	ју
means necessary	to treat the individual.	

- c. Any order of the State Health Officer given to effectuate this paragraph is immediately enforceable by a law enforcement officer under s. 381.0012.
- (5) The department shall adopt rules to specify the conditions and procedures for imposing and releasing an isolation or a quarantine. The rules must include provisions related to:
 - (a) The closure of premises.

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- (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the powers granted in this section may not be used in any way that infringes or limits any rights provided in Art. I of the State Constitution.
- Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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