



Substitute House Bill No. 5653

Special Act No. 21-5

AN ACT CONCERNING DECLARATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCIES AND THE CREATION OF A BIPARTISAN COMMISSION TO STUDY STATUTES GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH DECLARATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes, the Governor is hereby authorized to renew: (1) The public health and civil preparedness emergencies declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) any orders issued pursuant to the declarations and the renewal of such declarations that remain in effect as of July 20, 2021, provided any exercise of authority under this section is done in accordance with section 2 of this act. On and after July 1, 2021, the Governor may file the renewal of such declarations with the Secretary of the State in accordance with section 2 of this act and any such renewal may cover the period of time from July 21, 2021, through March 1, 2022. Not less than five days prior to filing the renewal of any emergency declaration with the Secretary of the State under section 2 of this act, the Governor shall provide electronic notice of such renewal to the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and

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the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The provisions of this section shall not limit the Governor, or any department head, state agency or municipality from exercising any authority granted under said sections of the general statutes from July 21, 2021, through March 1, 2022, provided any exercise of such authority in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is done in accordance with section 2 of this act. After March 1, 2022, nothing in this section or section 2 of this act shall affect or limit any authority conveyed pursuant to section 19a-131a or 28-9 of the general statutes. As used in this section and section 2 of this act, "COVID-19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a communicable respiratory disease.

Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Governor may renew the public health and civil preparedness emergencies originally declared on March 10, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided: (1) Any such renewed declaration shall have a duration of not more than an additional sixty days from the date of the renewed declaration if such renewal is made during a regular session of the General Assembly or not more than an additional one hundred eighty days from the date of the renewed declaration if such renewal is made when the General Assembly is not in regular session, and (2) any such renewal issued by the Governor shall cease to be effective unless approved by a majority vote of each house of the General Assembly by resolution not later than three business days after the date of filing such renewal with the Secretary of the State.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes, from July 21, 2021, through March 1, 2022, the Governor, or any department head, state agency or municipality may exercise any authority granted under sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provided an

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executive order issued under such authority shall not exceed the duration of the emergency declaration under which it has been issued and may be disapproved by a majority vote at a meeting of a joint legislative committee consisting of the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives. Such joint legislative committee meeting may be conducted on a virtual platform that can be viewed by the public. Any disapproval of an executive order by the joint legislative committee shall not be effective unless filed with the Secretary of the State not later than thirty-six hours after the Governor's filing of the order with the Secretary of the State.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a bipartisan commission to study sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the general statutes and make recommendations on how said sections should be amended to provide greater legislative oversight of declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and the exercise of executive authority pursuant to said sections.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
 - (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
 - (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
 - (5) One appointed by the Governor.
- (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivision (1),

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(2), (3), or (4) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the commission from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration and elections shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the commission shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration and elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The commission shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

Approved May 17, 2021