



SPONSOR: Sen. Lawson & Sen. Pettyjohn  
Sens. Richardson, Wilson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 58

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 20 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 3132, Title 20 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 3132. Definitions.

4 ~~The following terms shall have the indicated meanings when used in this subchapter. As used in this subchapter:~~

5 (4) “COVID-19” means any of the following:

6 a. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

7 b. The disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

8 (5) “COVID-19 state of emergency” means the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 13,  
9 2020, and any subsequent state of emergency relating to COVID-19.

10 Section 2. Amend § 3136, Title 20 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
11 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

12 § 3136. Isolation and quarantine during public health ~~emergency~~; emergency; COVID-19 state of emergency  
13 exemption.

14 ~~The~~ Except in a COVID-19 state of emergency, the following isolation and quarantine procedures shall be in  
15 effect apply during a state of emergency:

16 (1) *General authority.* — The public safety authority may exercise, for such period as the state of emergency  
17 exists, the following emergency powers over persons:

18 a. To establish and maintain places of isolation and quarantine;

19 b. To isolate and quarantine individuals subject to the procedures enumerated in this section; and

20 c. To require isolation or quarantine of any person by the least restrictive means necessary to protect the  
21 public health, subject to the other provisions of this section. All reasonable means shall be taken to prevent the  
22 transmission of infection among the isolated or quarantined individuals.

23           (2) *Standard for quarantine or isolation.* — a. Persons shall be isolated or quarantined if it is determined by  
24 clear and convincing evidence that the person to be isolated or quarantined poses a significant risk of transmitting a  
25 disease to others with serious consequences. A person’s refusal to accept medical examination, vaccination or  
26 treatment pursuant to §§ 3135 and 3137 of this title shall constitute prima facie evidence that said person should be  
27 quarantined or isolated.

28           b. Isolation or quarantine of any person shall be terminated when such person no longer poses a  
29 significant risk of transmitting a disease to others with serious consequences.

30           (3) *Character of isolation and quarantine area.* — a. To the extent possible, the premises in which persons  
31 are isolated or quarantined shall be maintained in safe and hygienic manners designed to minimize the likelihood of  
32 further transmission of infection or other harm to persons subject to isolation or quarantine. Adequate food, clothing,  
33 medication and other necessities and competent medical care shall be provided.

34           b. Isolated individuals must be confined separately from quarantined individuals.

35           c. The health status of isolated and quarantined individuals must be monitored regularly to determine if  
36 their status should change. If a quarantined individual subsequently becomes infected or is reasonably believed to  
37 have become infected with a contagious or possibly contagious disease, the individual must promptly be moved to  
38 isolation.

39           (4) *Control of quarantine and isolation area.* — a. A person subject to isolation or quarantine shall obey the  
40 public safety authority’s rules and orders, shall not go beyond the isolation or quarantine premises, and shall not put  
41 himself or herself in contact with any person not subject to isolation or quarantine other than a physician or other health  
42 care provider, public health authority, or person authorized to enter isolation or quarantine premises by the public  
43 safety authority. Any person entering isolation or quarantine premises may be isolated or quarantined.

44           b. No person, other than a person authorized by the public safety authority, shall enter isolation or  
45 quarantine premises. If by reason of an unauthorized entry into an isolation or quarantine premises, the person  
46 poses a danger to public health, that person may be subject to isolation or quarantine pursuant to the provisions of  
47 this section.

48           (5) *Procedures for isolation and quarantine.* — The following procedures shall protect the due process rights  
49 of individuals:

50           a. The public safety authority shall petition the Superior Court for an order authorizing the isolation or  
51 quarantine of an individual or groups of individuals.

52           b. A petition pursuant to paragraph (5)a. of this section shall specify the following:

- 53 1. The identity of the individual or group of individuals subject to isolation or quarantine;
- 54 2. The premises subject to isolation or quarantine;
- 55 3. The date and time at which the public safety authority request isolation or quarantine to  
56 commence;
- 57 4. The suspected contagious disease, if known;
- 58 5. A statement of compliance with the conditions and principles for isolation and quarantine; and
- 59 6. A statement of the basis upon which isolation or quarantine is justified.
- 60 7. A statement of what effort, if any, has been made to give notice of the hearing to the individual or  
61 group of individuals to be isolated or quarantined, or the reason supporting the claim that notice should not be  
62 required.

63 *c. Ex parte orders.* — Before isolating or quarantining a person, the public safety authority shall obtain a  
64 written order, which may be an ex parte order, from the Superior Court authorizing such action. An order, which  
65 may be an ex parte order, shall be requested as part of a petition filed in compliance with paragraphs (5)a. and b. of  
66 this section. The Court shall grant an order, which may be an ex parte order, upon finding by clear and convincing  
67 evidence that isolation or quarantine is warranted pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter. A copy of the  
68 authorizing order shall be given to the person ordered to be isolated or quarantined, along with notification that the  
69 person has a right to a hearing under paragraph (5)e. of this section.

70 *d. Temporary quarantine or isolation pending filing of a petition.* — Notwithstanding the preceding  
71 paragraphs, the public safety authority may isolate or quarantine a person without first obtaining a written order,  
72 which may be an ex parte order, from the Court if a physician determines that any delay in the isolation or  
73 quarantine of the person would pose an immediate and severe danger to the public health. Following such isolation  
74 or quarantine, the public health authority shall file a petition pursuant to paragraphs (5)a. through c. of this section  
75 within 24 hours. In addition, if the public safety authority exercises its powers under this paragraph (5), it must  
76 provide a written directive to the individuals or groups under temporary quarantine or isolation indicating the  
77 identities of the individuals or groups subject to the directive, the premises subject to isolation or quarantine, the  
78 date and time that the directive commences, the suspected contagious disease (if known), and a copy of § 3138 of  
79 this title.

80 *e. Speedy hearing.* — The Court shall grant a hearing within 72 hours of the filing of a petition when an  
81 individual has been isolated or quarantined pursuant to paragraph (5)c. or d. of this section.

82                   f. *Consolidation of claims.* — The Court may order consolidation of individual claims into a group of  
83 claims where:

84                   1. The number of individuals involved or to be affected is so large as to render individual  
85 participation impractical;

86                   2. There are questions of law or fact common to the individual claims or rights to be determined;

87                   3. The group claims or rights to be determined are typical of the affected individuals' claims or  
88 rights; and

89                   4. The entire group will be adequately represented in the consolidation, giving due regard to the  
90 rights of affected individuals.

91                   (6) *Relief for isolated and quarantined persons.* — a. On or after 10 days following a hearing as is provided  
92 for in paragraph (5)e. of this section, a person isolated or quarantined pursuant to the provisions of this section may  
93 request in writing a Court hearing to contest his or her continued isolation or quarantine. The hearing shall be held  
94 within 72 hours of receipt of such request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. A request for a hearing  
95 shall not alter the order of isolation or quarantine. At the hearing, the public safety authority must show by clear and  
96 convincing evidence that continuation of the isolation or quarantine is warranted because the person poses a significant  
97 risk of transmitting a disease to others with serious consequences.

98                   b. A person isolated or quarantined pursuant to the provisions of this section may request a hearing in the  
99 Superior Court for remedies regarding his or her treatment and the terms and conditions of such quarantine or  
100 isolation. Upon receiving a request for either type of hearing described in this paragraph, the Court shall fix a date  
101 for a hearing. The hearing shall take place within 10 days of the receipt of the request by the Court. The request for  
102 a hearing shall not alter the order of isolation or quarantine.

103                   c. If upon a hearing, the Court finds that the isolation or quarantine of the individual is not warranted  
104 under the provisions of this section, then the person shall be immediately released from isolation or quarantine. If  
105 the Court finds that the isolation or quarantine of the individual is not in compliance with the provisions of  
106 paragraph (3) of this section, the Court may then fashion remedies appropriate to the circumstances of the state of  
107 public health emergency and in keeping with the provisions of this section.

108                   d. No person shall be permanently terminated from employment by a Delaware employer as a result of  
109 being isolated or quarantined pursuant to this section. However, this paragraph shall not apply to a person who has  
110 been quarantined as a result of refusing to comply with an examination, treatment or vaccination program, nor  
111 shall it apply to a person whose conduct caused the state of emergency that necessitated the isolation or quarantine.

112 (7) *Additional due process protections.* — a. A record of proceedings before the Court shall be made and  
113 retained for at least 3 years.

114 b. The petitioner shall have the right to be represented by counsel or other lawful representative, and the  
115 State shall provide counsel to indigent persons against whom proceedings are initiated pursuant to this subchapter.

116 c. The manner in which the request for a hearing is filed and acted upon will be in accordance with the  
117 existing laws and rules of the Superior Court or any such rules that are developed by the Court for use during a  
118 state of emergency, provided that hearings should be held by any means that will allow all necessary persons to  
119 participate in the event that a public health emergency makes personal appearances impractical.

120 Section 3. Amend § 3137, Title 20 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
121 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

122 § 3137. Vaccination and treatment during public health ~~emergency~~; emergency; COVID-19 state of emergency  
123 exemption.

124 ~~During~~ Except in a COVID-19 state of emergency, during a state of emergency, the public safety authority may  
125 exercise, for such period as the state of emergency exists, the following emergency powers:

126 (1) To direct vaccination of persons as protection against infectious disease and to prevent the spread of  
127 contagious or possibly contagious disease.

128 a. Vaccination may be performed by any qualified person authorized to do so by the public safety  
129 authority.

130 b. A vaccine to be administered must not be such as is reasonably likely to lead to serious harm to the  
131 affected individual.

132 c. To prevent the spread of contagious or possibly contagious disease, the public safety authority may  
133 isolate or quarantine, subject to § 3136 of this title, persons who are unable or unwilling for reasons of health,  
134 religion or conscience to undergo vaccination pursuant to this section.

135 (2) To direct treatment of persons exposed to or infected with disease.

136 a. Treatment may be administered by any qualified person authorized to do so by the public safety  
137 authority.

138 b. Treatment must not be such as is reasonably likely to lead to serious harm to the affected individual.

139 c. To prevent the spread of contagious or possibly contagious disease, the public safety authority may  
140 isolate or quarantine, subject to § 3136 of this title, persons who are unable or unwilling for reasons of health,  
141 religion or conscience to undergo treatment pursuant to this section.

SYNOPSIS

This Act removes the State's authority to forcibly isolate, quarantine, vaccinate, or treat individuals against their will for COVID-19 during a state of emergency relating to COVID-19.

This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

Author: Senator Lawson