

# Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act further fuels vaccine debate

(Tribune News Service) - In a divisive vote pitting precautionary public health measures against personal liberties, Illinois lawmakers last month narrowly passed a measure intended to prevent a decades-old state law from being used to skirt coronavirus vaccination requirements.

While the change to the state's Health Care Right of Conscience Act was meant to provide greater clarity, its passage promises to only fuel the ongoing debate over vaccine mandates and provide Republicans a heated issue to use in next year's elections against the Democrats who control Springfield.

While Republican lawmakers have continuously derided Gov. J.B. Pritzker for unilaterally imposing COVID-19 mandates and were united in opposition to altering the law, some Democrats also had concerns over the change. Thirteen Democrats in the House and Senate sided with Republicans in voting no.

State Sen. Patrick Joyce of Essex, one of six Democrats in the chamber to vote against the measure, stressed he wants everyone to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but he didn't feel the law change was the right solution and ultimately the vote was to represent my constituents" more than a reflection of his personal feelings.

Because a three-fifths majority in both the House and Senate would have been needed to make the measure passed during the fall veto session effective immediately, Democrats wrote it to take effect in June. But legislators could make it effective immediately with a simple majority vote when they return to Springfield in January.

Either way, Pritzker said Thursday that the vote last month "certainly sends a signal to courts what the legislature's intent is."

"So I think that will have an effect on cases that are pending," Pritzker said.

In floor debates with Republicans arguing the change is a violation of people's First Amendment rights, Democratic backers argued that it will not prevent people from using federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act to cite medical, moral or religious exemptions for work-related issues.

But legal experts said it's not clear that federal law would allow people to avoid the vaccine and testing mandates. One pointed to a century-old U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed the government to order vaccinations against civil liberties.

This 1905 case was cited in an opinion by the Supreme Court when it decided Oct. 29 to not hear an appeal of a new rule from the state of Maine that requires some health care workers to get the COVID-19 vaccines if they want to keep their jobs.

"The federal law, it seems pretty well established that an exemption can be trumped by the public need for protection," said Allen Shoenberger, a constitutional law professor from Loyola University Chicago.

He also noted that an employer could be sued by its workers if the business fails to adequately protect them against COVID-19 by, for instance, not imposing a vaccine or testing mandate.

However, DePaul University law professor Alice Setrini said federal laws such as the ADA or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act could also help



**DEBATE:** Chicago police officers along with other city workers and their supporters listen as Chicago Fraternal Order of Police president John Catanzara speaks during a protest at city hall against the mayor's vaccination policy for city employees on Oct. 25, in Chicago, Illinois. Scott Olson/Getty Images/Tribune News Service

employers deal with workers balking at a vaccine order. For instance, if an employee, citing a religious exemption, goes to federal court for

their refusal to get vaccinated, the employer could be allowed under the law to require the worker to get tested or wear a mask.

## GUAM PAROLE BOARD

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Guam Parole Board's regular scheduled hearing will be on Thursday November 18, 2021, 2:30 p.m., at the Parole Services Division Office #203 Aspinall Avenue Hagatna, Guam.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Old Business (Parole Desirability cases)
- IV. New Business (Parole Desirability & Preliminary Revocation cases)
- V. Deliberation
- VI. Adjourn

Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88277145978?pwd=RFdHbXByVnhVeFhFcUkxS0NwUk9hXUJ09>  
Meeting ID: 882 7714 5978  
Passcode: 678012

For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact the Parole Services Division at (671) 735 - 4132/33 for assistance.  
This ad was paid for by the Corrections Revolving Fund.

### The Office of Senator Clynton E. Ridgell

Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, and the Arts

**SECOND NOTICE of Virtual Public Hearing: Wednesday – November 17, 2021**

The Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, and the Arts will conduct a series of Virtual Public Hearings on **Wednesday – November 17, 2021 at 9:00 am** via Zoom Video Conference.

The Committee will hear and accept testimony on the following items:

**Bill No. 191-36 (COR)** An Act to Amend § 3402 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 1, Title 9, Guam Administrative Rules, Relative to Allowing Wild Deer to be Taken and Harbored as Livestock.

**Bill No. 194-36 (COR)** An Act to Amend § 14101 of Chapter 14, Division 4, Title 8, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, and to Repeal and Reenact § 14102 of Chapter 14, Division 4, Title 8, Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Relative to the Guam Invasive Species Inspection Fee and its Assessment.

If you are interested in participating in the Virtual Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator Clynton E. Ridgell via electronic mail at [egrjck@guamlegislature.org](mailto:egrjck@guamlegislature.org) or (671) 475-4983 no later than November 15, 2021 for further guidance.

Public Hearing will broadcast LIVE on local television (GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/112.4) and stream online via Liheslaturan Guahan's live feed. Written testimonies may be sent via email at [egrjck@guamlegislature.org](mailto:egrjck@guamlegislature.org).

All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact the Office of Senator Clynton

## GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEK O YAN SETBSION SUSIAT

### The Guam Board of Medical Examiners

#### Regular Virtual Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 4:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/98062608026?pwd=UmYzbjQ0MmpzZDdyWnNmZUJkc2NpZz09>  
Meeting ID: 980 6260 8026      Passcode: 979249

**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to order:
  - (a) Roll Call
  - (b) Confirmation of Public Notice advertised in the Guam Daily Post
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 29, 2021
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Philip J. Flores
- V. HPLD Administrator's Report: Zennia C. Pecina, M.S.N. R.N.
- VI. Chairperson's Report: Nathaniel B. Berg, M.D.
  - (a) Emergency issued Licenses
- VII. Old Business:
  - (a) Complaint(s): (1) GBME-CO-19-010 (2) GBME-CO-19-012 (3) GBME-CO-19-013 (4) GBME-CO-19-014 (5) GBME-CO-19-015 (6) GBME-CO-19-016 (7) GBME-CO-19-017 (8) GBME-CO-20-001 (9) GBME-CO-20-004 (10) GBME-CO-20-005 (11) GBME-CO-20-006 (12) GBME-CO-20-007 (13) GBME-CO-20-009
  - (14) GBME-CO-21-002 (15) GBME-CO-21-005 (16) GBME-CO-21-006 (17) GBME-CO-21-007 (18) GBME-CO-21-008
- (b) Reinstatement of License: Abner Pasatiempo, M.D.
- (c) Application(s) for Temporary Licensure (d) GBME-AP-2020-001
- VIII. New Business:
  - (a) Complaint(s): (1) GBME-CO-2021-009
  - (b) Application(s) for Full Licensure
  - (c) Application(s) for Temporary Licensure
  - (d) Full Licensure Renewal(s) 2021
  - (e) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC) Applicant(s)
- IX. Other Business: The Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Session Meeting is scheduled for December 08, 2021 at 4:00pm (Tentative)

To view full meeting agenda, visit: <https://guammedical.org>  
LIVE Streaming link: <https://facebook.com/HPL0Guam>

For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 475-8339.

# Biden to tout infrastructure package on Baltimore visit

By Jeff Barker  
and Christine Condon  
Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — President Joe Biden will visit Baltimore this week — his second trip to the city in three weeks — and tout the just-passed infrastructure package and its effect on ports and supply chains, the White House said Sunday.

The president will tour the Port of Baltimore on Wednesday.

He made his first visit to the city as chief executive on Oct. 21, when he answered questions at a CNN town hall held at Baltimore's Center Stage theater.

The House of Representatives late Friday night gave final approval to

legislation intended to improve roads, bridges, transit systems and broadband, and bolster Chesapeake Bay restoration.

The measure will upgrade the nation's ports and strengthen supply chains "to prevent disruptions," the White House said in a news release announcing the Baltimore visit.

The White House said Saturday that the infrastructure package would address "decades of neglect and underinvestment in our infrastructure (that) have left the links in our goods movement supply chains struggling to keep up with our strong economic recovery from the pandemic."

The legislation passed the House 228-206 late Friday.

The package, which was cut from its original size of \$3.5 trillion to about \$1 trillion in infrastructure investments, was a point of contention between moderate and progressive Democrats for months. Republicans largely opposed the bill on account of its cost.

The final bill contains \$17 billion for ports, but it is unclear how much the Port of Baltimore will receive.

It comes as American ports, particularly along the West Coast, are experiencing a traffic jam that's spurred price jumps for a number of products.

Last month, the Biden administration announced that the Port of Los Angeles would begin operating 24 hours a day to help clear a backlog of ships waiting to unload their goods.



**EARLIER STOP:** President Joe Biden talks with audience members during a break in the town hall at Center Stage in Baltimore on Oct. 21. Kim Hairston/The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore's port has seen issues over the past few years, too. Two times in as many years, truck drivers have protested long wait times at the terminal to receive their cargo. But Sunday, port officials touted long-term investments in the terminal and said they haven't seen the level of recent congestion hindering larger ports like Los Angeles'.

## President's quest for oil relief turns to US energy data

By Laura Davison  
Bloomberg

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration will consider energy price data coming out Tuesday as it weighs measures to stem high gasoline prices, including tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said.

The monthly survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration is



Jennifer Granholm

the latest marker in President Joe Biden's effort to counter high crude prices and a snub of his request to key producers, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, to increase output more quickly.

"The president is all over this," Granholm said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. "I think we'll be looking at that forecast that's coming out on Tuesday."

U.S. gasoline prices at the pump hit the highest level since 2014 last week, signaling a growing political risk for

Biden amid accelerating consumer prices and supply bottlenecks stoked in part by the economic recovery. OPEC and its allies last week rejected Biden's request for a large production increase and stuck to a plan for gradual monthly output increases of 400,000 barrels a day.

The short-term energy outlook, put out monthly by the Energy Department's independent EIA, is watched closely by traders and policymakers. It provides forecasts on consumption, supply and trade and other information about oil and other energy markets.

The last survey, dated Oct. 13, projects a gradual fall in U.S. retail gasoline prices through the end of next year, including a decline to an average \$3.05 per gallon of regular grade in December. Granholm cited that data in an NBC interview on Oct. 31 in which she called the EIA reports "the best objective data that we have."

The strategic petroleum reserve, a crude stockpile of more than 600 million barrels kept underground in Louisiana and Texas for major emergencies, is big enough to replace all the oil the U.S. imports from OPEC+ for more than a year. Speculation that Biden might deploy it sent oil prices lower last week.

Granholm reiterated that the reserve is one of the tools at Biden's disposal "and he is certainly looking at that."

A day after OPEC+ ignored Biden's call to speed up the pace of output increases after last year's COVID-related cuts, Saudi Arabia raised its official crude prices for all buyers. "OPEC is unfortunately controlling the agenda with respect to oil prices," Granholm told CNN.

Biden said Saturday he's "not anticipating that OPEC would respond" to his request to help out.

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