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House Republicans push to ban vaccine passports in Oregon

House Democrats unite to maintain controversial policy option

SALEM, Ore. – On Monday, House Republicans voted in favor of banning vaccine passports in Oregon. However, the motion to pull <u>House Bill 3407</u> from the Speaker's desk failed on party lines.

The requirement for businesses to check the vaccination status of customers before they can remove their mask has been the focus of criticism from <u>Oregonians</u>, <u>labor groups</u> and <u>businesses</u>.

This legislation would prevent any public body - state, local or special government body - from issuing a requirement for proof of vaccination through a vaccine passport from COVID-19 or variants of COVID-19.

"This bill protects Oregonians' rights to privacy," said House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby). "We've already seen public opposition for the Governor's vaccine verification executive order. We're the only state in the country with this kind of mandate. People deserve the right to keep this confidential medical information private without a mask requirement."

In order to prevent discriminatory actions and repercussions, the bill would prohibit a person or public body from being able to legally require an individual to state or document vaccine status against COVID-19 to access credit, insurance, education, facilities, medical services, housing or accommodations, travel, entry into this state, employment or purchase goods or services.

It would also prohibit these entities from being legally able to require an individual to wear a face covering if the individual does not wish to disclose vaccine status.

The bill applies only to the COVID-19 vaccinations.

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