

HB2013 - Frequently Asked Questions

For Advocates

What is HB2013?

It's a proposed constitutional amendment. It would amend the PA state constitution to include medical freedom.

What is the process to get HB2013 passed?

A constitutional amendment needs to be passed by the House and the Senate with identical wording. This needs to happen in two legislative sessions in a row. Then, it would be put on the ballot for PA voters, where it would need to be passed by a simple majority. The earliest it could be passed is spring 2023.

Can the governor veto HB2013?

No, the governor cannot veto it, because it is a constitutional amendment.

What would HB2013 mean for Pennsylvanians?

Medical freedom would be specifically protected by our PA state constitution. See bill text:

§ 30. Right to medical freedom.

The right of an individual to refuse any medical procedure, treatment, injection, vaccine or prophylactic may not be questioned or interfered with in any manner. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged to any person in this Commonwealth because of the exercise of the right under this section.

Would HB2013 negatively affect federal funding? Also, would federal laws override this?

Looking at marijuana laws as an example, marijuana is illegal on the federal level, yet some states have legalized medical marijuana (including PA), or completely legalized it. These states have NOT lost federal funding. It would come down to a court battle if challenged - federal vs. states' rights.



InformedConsentPA.org

Who is already co-sponsoring HB2013?

As of April 19, there are 49 cosponsors. To see the most updated list of cosponsors, visit the bill information page/"history" tab at:

https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/bill_history.cfm?syearch=2021&syend=2021&body=H&type=B&bn=2013

Does HB2013 include masks?

The bill text includes the word "prophylactic" which would include masks. That said, there is no way to know exactly how this would play out if challenged in court.

What happens if HB2013 fails to get passed by the legislature this session?

If HB2013 fails to be passed by the legislature in this legislative session (2021-2022), it could be reintroduced in the next legislative session. Since it has to pass in two consecutive sessions, that would mean it would need to get passed in the 2023-2024 session and the 2025-2026 session to make it to the ballot.

What happens if HB2013 gets passed by the legislature, but fails to get a majority on the ballot?

If HB2013 is passed by the legislature, but fails to pass on the ballot, it could not get on the ballot again until 5 more years (although legwork could begin immediately). Passage of this will require a large grassroots effort!

Does HB2013 establish government overreach into businesses, by requiring them to treat individuals equally regardless of vaccine status?

Federal law, state law, and the Constitution already enforce protection of citizens from discrimination. Businesses are held accountable to these laws and may not discriminate against citizens based on gender, race, or religion. They should not be able to discriminate against citizens based on their private medical decisions either.



InformedConsentPA.org

I am meeting my state senator about another bill, should I discuss HB2013 with him/her?

Yes. Let your Senator know that even though HB2013 is not currently in the Senate, adding medical freedom to the PA constitution would go a long way toward protecting medical freedom in PA. We need to educate all PA legislators about the importance of protecting these fundamental rights.

What if my representative does not support this bill?

Make sure to respectfully share why this bill is important to you, and address their specific concerns. Remind them that we are asking them to put this on the ballot so that We the People can vote on it. Continue to share resources and build rapport with them, and encourage other constituents in their district to speak up.



InformedConsentPA.org