

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2020-769

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Members White, Newby, Hazouri, Freeman, DeFoor, Salem, Cumber and Becton

Date of Introduction: December 8, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: December 9, 2020

Type of Action: Resolution

Bill Summary: This bill is a resolution urging the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, to include first-responder emergency medical technicians as health care providers in the top priority category of eligibility for receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is approved for use in the United States. Emergency passage upon introduction is requested because the COVID-19 vaccine is nearing federal government approval for use and the City Council, with a December meeting hiatus taking effect next week, wishes to make known to the appropriate authorities as quickly as possible its feelings regarding this matter before distribution priorities are finalized and vaccinations begin.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to convey how essential first-responder emergency medical technicians are in maintaining the capacity of the nation's emergency response system to meet COVID-related and all other types of medical emergencies. With a limited supply, federal and state leaders are prioritizing the initial distribution of the vaccine to those most in need of its protective power (medical professionals-doctors, nurses, etc., the residents and staff of congregate living facilities such as nursing homes and long-term assisted living facilities, and to those over the age of 65 with serious underlying health issues). Emergency medical technicians are on the front line of response to medical emergencies and therefore are highly susceptible to being exposed to the COVID-19 virus and as such should be included in the top priority category of eligibility for the vaccine.

Policy Impact Area: COVID-19 vaccine and Emergency Medical Technicians

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey