

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 575

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RILEY.

1249H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri religious freedom protection act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 1.810, to read as follows:

1.810. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Religious Freedom Protection Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Place of worship", a building or grounds where activities of religious groups are conducted;

(2) "Public official", any elected or appointed officer, employee, or agent of the state of Missouri or any political subdivision, board, commission, bureau, or other public body thereof.

3. No public official shall issue an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting religious groups from holding religious services or meetings.

4. No public official shall issue an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting places of worship from holding religious services or meetings.

5. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not apply to religious groups using places of worship to intentionally commit or plan to commit acts of violence or harm against others.

6. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not apply to emergency evacuation orders involving imminent danger from flooding, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes,

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **terrorist threats, civil unrest, or hazardous material incidents that apply generally to the**
19 **area where the place of worship or the residences of its members are located. Once the**
20 **imminent danger has passed, religious services shall be allowed to resume.**

21 **7. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not be interpreted to**
22 **exclude places of worship from complying with applicable building and fire codes.**

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