

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1373

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS.

2675H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 537, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to liability protections.

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

Section A. Chapter 537, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 537.356, to read as follows:

**537.356. 1. As used in this section, "volunteer safety group" means a group of individuals who are approved by the leadership of a church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship to provide security services on the premises of the church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship and such individuals do not wear a uniform or badge that:**

**(1) Contains the word "security"; or**

**(2) Gives the individual the appearance of being a peace officer, personal protection officer, or security officer.**

**2. No individual who is a member of a volunteer safety group shall incur any legal liability for any act or omission of the individual while providing security services for a church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship, and no individual shall incur any personal financial liability for any tort claim or other action seeking damages for an injury arising from any act or omission of the individual while providing security services for the church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship if:**

**(1) The individual was acting in good faith and reasonably believed he or she was acting within the scope of his or her official functions and duties with the church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship; and**

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           **(2) The damage or injury was not caused by an intentional or knowing act by the**  
19 **individual that constitutes illegal, willful, or wanton misconduct.**

20           **3. A church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship shall not be liable for**  
21 **the acts or omissions by an individual who is a member of a volunteer safety group in**  
22 **any circumstance in which the acts of the individual are not as described under**  
23 **subsection 1 of this section unless the church, synagogue, or other place of religious**  
24 **worship had, or reasonably should have had, reasonable notice of the individual's**  
25 **unfitness to provide security services to the church, synagogue, or other place of**  
26 **religious worship under circumstances that make the use of the individual by the**  
27 **church, synagogue, or other place of religious worship reckless or wanton in light of that**  
28 **notice.**

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