

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1654

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STEINMEYER.

5139H.01I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to religious freedom, with penalty provisions.

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 1.347, to read as follows:

1.347. 1. The Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Missouri are the supreme law within the state of Missouri. No law, rule, regulation, or legal code of any foreign government, international body, or religious system shall be applied or enforced by any court, agency, or political subdivision of this state to the extent such application would violate the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Missouri, or the public policy of this state.

2. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit or restrict the voluntary expression, practice, or exercise of religion by any individual, group, or organization in accordance with Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution of Missouri and the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

3. No person, organization, foreign power, or entity shall, through coercion, threat, or use of force, attempt to impose or enforce any foreign or religious law upon another person or group within the state of Missouri. Any violation of this subsection shall be subject to criminal penalty under Missouri law including, but not limited to, chapters 565 and 574.

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.

16 **4. This section shall not impair or supersede obligations arising under the**
17 **Constitution of the United States, federal statutes, or treaties lawfully entered into by**
18 **the United States.**

19 **5. The attorney general of Missouri shall have concurrent authority with local**
20 **prosecutors to investigate and prosecute any action undertaken in violation of**
21 **subsection 3 of this section.**

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