
DIGEST

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HB 597 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides for the rights of religious organizations and its employees and clergy to refuse participation in certain marriages.

Present law protects the free exercise of religion.

Proposed law retains present law and creates the Pastor Protection Act.

Proposed law provides that a religious organization, an organization supervised or controlled by a religious organization, an individual employee of a religious organization, or a clergy or minister may not be required to solemnize or provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges for a purpose related to the solemnization, formation, or celebration of any marriage if doing so would cause the organization or individual to violate a sincerely held religious belief. Provides that a refusal pursuant to proposed law shall not serve as the basis for a civil, criminal, or other punitive action by the state or a political subdivision.

(Adds R.S. 13:5243-5245)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Removes the language "in connection with" such that the bill applies to organizations that are "supervised or controlled by" religious organizations but not to organizations that are "in connection with" religious organizations.