
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 294 Original

2026 Regular Session

Firment

Abstract: Provides immunity to religious leaders and persons lawfully present at houses of worship who use appropriate force to exclude intruders engaged in trespass or substantial disruption of activities.

Present law allows the use of force to exclude trespassers who refuse to leave certain private property.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that private property rights extend to houses of worship and to persons who are lawfully present at houses of worship, including the right to exclude people who trespass or cause substantial disruption.

Proposed law describes when the use of force is appropriate and provides immunity from liability when use of force is appropriately made.

Proposed law prohibits the use of deadly force except as otherwise provided in present law related to self-defense.

Proposed law provides for an immunity hearing in cases against a religious leader or lawfully present person at a house of worship who uses force.

Proposed law allows for peaceful protest not on house of worship property that does not impede access to or from the house of worship by persons lawfully present.

Proposed law provides definitions for "house of worship", "religious leader", and "substantial disruption".

Proposed law adds houses of worship to the list of places where people can use force or violence to prevent unlawful entry by another person.

(Amends R.S. 14:(A)(1)(b)(i) and (2) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1); Adds R.S. 13:5233.2)