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## DIGEST

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HB 294 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Firment

**Abstract:** Provides immunity to religious leaders and persons lawfully present at churches and other places of worship who use appropriate force to exclude intruders engaged in trespass or substantial disruption of religious 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 churches and other places of worship and to persons who are lawfully present at churches and other places 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 church or other place of worship who uses force.

Proposed law allows for peaceful protests outside of the church or other place of worship that do not impede access to or from the church or other place of worship.

Proposed law defines "church or other place of worship", "religious leader", and "substantial disruption".

Proposed law adds churches and other places 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)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Change "house of worship" to "church or other place of worship" throughout proposed law.
2. Define "church or other place of worship".

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change "defined outdoor area" to "outdoor private property".