
DIGEST

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HB 707 Original

2015 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Abstract: Provides relative to the right of conscience and religious freedom regarding beliefs about marriage.

Present law protects the free exercise of religion and includes the ability to act or refuse to act in a manner substantially motivated by a sincerely-held religious belief, whether or not the exercise is compulsory or a central part or central requirement of the person's religious belief.

Present law defines marriage in La. Const. Article XII, §15.

Proposed law retains present law and creates the Marriage and Conscience Act. Prohibits the state from taking any adverse action against a person on the basis that such person acted in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction about marriage. Provides for those actions which are deemed to be adverse actions.

Provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to preempt, repeal, or narrow the definition of marriage provided in La. Const. Art. XII, Section 15, nor shall proposed law require any official or court in this state to construe the constitution or state law to confer the legal incidents of marriage to any member of a union other than one man and one woman. Nor shall proposed law be construed to recognize any marriage contracted in another jurisdiction which is not of one man and one woman.

Proposed law provides for judicial relief including compensatory damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or any other appropriate relief.

(Adds R.S. 13:5243-5248)