

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1724

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON.

3919H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student associations at public institutions of higher learning.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 173.1555 and 173.1556, to read as follows:

**173.1555. As used in this section and section 173.1556, the following terms mean:**

(1) "Adverse action", any action or policy that denies a belief-based student association any benefit available to other student associations or organizations or that otherwise discriminates with respect to any such benefit;

(2) "Belief-based student association" includes, but shall not be limited to, any political or ideological student association or any religious student organization;

(3) "Benefit", recognition, registration, the use of facilities of a public institution of higher learning for meetings or speaking purposes, or the use of channels of communication of a public institution of higher learning;

(4) "Public institution of higher learning", any state postsecondary educational institution governed or supervised by a board erected under chapter 172, 174, 175, or 178; a board of trustees of a community college; or any state board for any other technical school.

**173.1556. 1. No public institution of higher learning shall take any adverse action against a belief-based student association based on such association's requirement that its leaders be committed to furthering the association's mission or to adhere to the association's sincerely held beliefs, sincere practice requirements, or**

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.

5 sincere standards of conduct. Such leaders shall include, but shall not be limited to, any  
6 person who holds a position within the association that authorizes such person to  
7 participate in the leadership or governance of the association or in establishing criteria  
8 for the association's leadership or governance. Such missions, beliefs, practice  
9 requirements, and standards of conduct shall be defined by the association and the  
10 beliefs upon which the association is based.

11       2. Any belief-based student association that has been aggrieved as a result of a  
12 violation or threatened violation of subsection 1 of this section may assert that violation  
13 or threatened violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding or in an  
14 administrative proceeding against the public institution of higher learning and obtain  
15 appropriate relief.

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