

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1959

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RILEY.

3110H.01I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri religious freedom protection act.

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

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 1.810, to read as follows:

**1.810. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Religious Freedom Protection Act".**

**2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

**(1) "Place of worship", a building or grounds where activities of religious groups are conducted;**

**(2) "Public official", any elected or appointed officer, employee, or agent of the state of Missouri or any political subdivision, board, commission, bureau, or other public body thereof.**

**3. No public official shall issue an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting religious groups from holding religious services or meetings.**

**4. No public official shall issue an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting places of worship from holding religious services or meetings.**

**5. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not apply to religious groups using places of worship to intentionally commit or plan to commit acts of violence or harm.**

**6. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not apply to temporary emergency evacuation orders involving imminent danger from flooding,**

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.

18 **fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, terrorist threats, civil unrest, or hazardous material**  
19 **incidents, that apply generally to the area where the place of worship or the residences**  
20 **of its members are located. Once the imminent danger has passed, religious services**  
21 **shall be allowed to resume.**

22 **7. The provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section shall not be interpreted to**  
23 **exclude places of worship from complying with applicable building and fire codes.**

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