

SENATE BILL NO. 1383

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CARTER.

5443S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal section 1.302, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to closures of places of worship.

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

Section A. Section 1.302, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 1.302,
3 to read as follows:

1.302. 1. A governmental authority may not restrict a
2 person's free exercise of religion, unless:

3 (1) The restriction is in the form of a rule of
4 general applicability, and does not discriminate against
5 religion, or among religions; and

6 (2) The governmental authority demonstrates that
7 application of the restriction to the person is essential to
8 further a compelling governmental interest, and is not
9 unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstances.

10 2. **Any law, order, rule, or regulation issued by any**
11 **governmental authority pursuant to an emergency or health or**
12 **safety determination, that requires closure or limitation of**
13 **any place of worship shall be considered unduly restrictive**
14 **even if the law, order, rule, or regulation is in the form**
15 **of general applicability.**

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

17 (1) "Exercise of religion" [shall be defined as], an
18 act or refusal to act that is substantially motivated by

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

19 religious belief, whether or not the religious exercise is
20 compulsory or central to a larger system of religious
21 belief[.]

22 3. As used in this section];

23 (2) "Demonstrates" [means], meets the burden of going
24 forward with the evidence and of persuasion;

25 (3) "Place of worship", a building or grounds where
26 religious activities are conducted and is operated by an
27 organization that qualifies for the religious exemption
28 under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3), as amended.

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