

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1136**

Introduced by

Representatives Klemin, Karls, Meier, D. Ruby, Satrom, Steiner, Vetter

Senators Dwyer, Erbele, Kannianen, Larson, Luick

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-02.4 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the exercise of religion.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 14-02.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Exercise of religion.**

- 7 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a state or local government entity may not:  
8 a. Substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless applying the burden to  
9 that person's exercise of religion in a particular situation is essential to further a  
10 compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering  
11 that compelling government interest;  
12 b. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any secular conduct of reasonably  
13 comparable risk; or  
14 c. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any comparable secular conduct  
15 because of alleged economic need or benefit.  
16 2. A person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may assert that  
17 violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate relief,  
18 including costs and reasonable attorney's fees.