

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1136
(Representatives Klemin, Karls, Meier, D. Ruby, Satrom, Steiner, Vetter)
(Senators Dwyer, Erbele, Kannianen, Larson, Luick)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-02.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the exercise of religion.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

Exercise of religion.

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1136.

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 0 Absent 4

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 3 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State