

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 368

By: Bullard, Bergstrom, Burns,
Jett, Taylor, Stephens and
Strandridge of the Senate

and

Hill, Davis, Lawson, Boles,
West (Kevin), Crosswhite
Hader, Phillips, Russ,
Grego and Roberts (Sean) of
the House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act; amending 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, which relates to burden upon free exercise of religion; prohibiting governmental declaration of religious institution as nonessential; prohibiting closure or restriction on religious institution under certain circumstances; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, is amended to read as follows:

Section 253. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, no governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.

B. No governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion unless it demonstrates that application of the burden to the person is:

1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and

2. The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

C. No governmental entity as defined pursuant to Section 252 of this title shall declare or deem a religious institution and any activity directly related to the institution's discharge of its mission and purpose to be nonessential. No religious institution shall be subject to a closure or restriction for the purposes of health or security that is greater than that imposed upon any private entity facing the same or similar health or security conditions.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 11th day of March, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 20th day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____