

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2040

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCAHERTY.

4204H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the rights of certain religious organizations and individuals.

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
2 known as section 1.303, to read as follows:

- 3 **1.303. 1. A religious organization, an organization supervised or controlled by or**
4 **in connection with a religious organization, an individual employed by a religious**
5 **organization while acting in the scope of that employment, or a clergy or minister shall not**
6 **be required to solemnize any marriage, provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods,**
7 **or privilege for a purpose related to the solemnization, formation, or celebration of any**
8 **marriage, or treat any marriage as valid for any purpose if the action would cause the**
9 **organization or individual to violate a sincerely held religious belief.**
10 **2. A refusal to provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges**
11 **under subsection 1 of this section is not the basis for a civil or criminal cause of action or**
12 **any other action by this state or a political subdivision of this state to penalize or withhold**
benefits or privileges, including tax exemptions or governmental contracts, grants, or
licenses from any protected organization or individual.

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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.