

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 837

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLY (141).

1782H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student associations at public institutions of higher learning.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 173.1555 and 173.1556, to read as follows:

173.1555. As used in this section and section 173.1556, the following terms mean:

(1) "Benefit", recognition, registration, the use of facilities of the public institution of higher learning for meetings or speaking purposes, and the use of channels of communication of the public institution of higher learning;

(2) "Public institution of higher learning", any state postsecondary educational institution governed or supervised by a board erected under chapter 172, 174, 175, or 178; a board of trustees of a community college; or any state board for any other technical school;

(3) "Religion" or "religious", includes all aspects of a religious belief or practice, regardless of whether compelled or central to a particular religion.

173.1556. 1. No public institution of higher learning shall take any action or enforce any policy that denies a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association or that discriminates against a religious student association with respect to such benefit, based on that association's requirement that its leaders or others who hold a position within the association that authorizes them to participate in establishing criteria for its leadership and governance adhere to the association's sincerely held religious beliefs, comply with the association's sincere religious practice requirements,

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.

8 **comply with the association's sincere religious standards of conduct, or be committed to**
9 **furthering the association's religious missions as such beliefs, requirements, standards, or**
10 **missions are defined by the association or religion upon which the association is based.**

11 **2. Any religious student association that has been aggrieved as a result of a**
12 **violation or threatened violation of subsection 1 of this section may assert that violation or**
13 **threatened violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding or in an administrative**
14 **proceeding against the public institution of higher learning and obtain appropriate relief.**

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