

# SENATE BILL NO. 68

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BRATTIN.

0257S.03I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 44, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the exercise of religion during an emergency.

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

Section A. Chapter 44, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto  
2 one new section, to be known as section 44.103, to read as  
3 follows:

44.103. 1. Notwithstanding section 1.302 to the  
2 contrary, the state, any state agency, political  
3 subdivision, county commission, county health board, or  
4 person shall be prohibited from enacting, adopting,  
5 maintaining, or enforcing any order, ordinance, rule,  
6 regulation, policy, or other similar measure that restricts,  
7 directly or indirectly, the free exercise of religion,  
8 including limitations on attendance or participation in any  
9 prayer, service, meeting, or similar religious activity or  
10 requirements regarding choice of attire or appearance,  
11 during an emergency related to the entrance of infectious,  
12 contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases.

13 2. During an emergency relating to the entrance of  
14 infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous diseases,  
15 any religious organization in this state shall not be liable  
16 for civil damages in any action arising out of an exposure  
17 or potential exposure to the disease warranting such  
18 emergency on the premises of the religious organization,

19 except for willful and wanton misconduct or gross negligence  
20 by the religious organization. For purposes of this  
21 subsection, a "religious organization" means any church,  
22 synagogue, mosque, or any entity that has or would qualify  
23 for federal tax-exempt status as a nonprofit religious  
24 organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue  
25 Code.

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