

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2648

By: Hill, Echols, Hardin  
(David), Townley, Burns,  
Steagall, Crosswhite Hader,  
3 West (Kevin), Cornwell,  
4 Caldwell (Chad), Kendrix,  
5 Dills, Grego, Boles,  
6 Conley, Gann, Mize, Stark,  
7 Russ, Roberts (Eric),  
8 Roberts (Sean), McDugle,  
9 Caldwell (Trey), Bashore,  
10 Wolfley, Moore, West  
(Tammy), Miller, Smith,  
Dempsey, Baker, Lepak,  
11 McCall, Sims, Lawson,  
12 Williams, Roe, Humphrey,  
13 O'Donnell, Phillips and  
14 Manger of the House

and

Bullard of the Senate

15 An Act relating to officers; amending 51 O.S. 2011,  
16 Section 253, which relates to the free exercise of  
17 religion; prohibiting any governmental entity from  
18 closing any place of worship during an emergency; and  
19 providing an effective date.

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

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

23 Section 253. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this  
24 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.

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

4 1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and

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

7 C. Any order or rule issued by any governmental entity pursuant  
8 to an emergency that requires closure of any place of worship  
9 entitled to the religious exemption found in Section 501(c)(3) of  
10 Title 26 of the United States Code shall be considered a substantial  
11 burden even if the order or rule is one of general applicability.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

13 Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 2021.

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16 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

17 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

18  
19  
20 Presiding Officer of the Senate