



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3242/1  
MPG:emw

## 2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

June 14, 2023 - Introduced by Senators TOMCZYK, BRADLEY, CABRAL-GUEVARA, JAMES, MARKLEIN, NASS, QUINN and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives BODDEN, TUSLER, BEHNKE, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, BINSFELD, BRANDTJEN, BROOKS, EDMING, GOEBEN, GUNDRUM, GUSTAFSON, HURD, MAGNAFICI, MAXEY, MICHALSKI, MURPHY, O'CONNOR, PENTERMAN, RETTINGER, ROZAR, SCHMIDT, SCHRAA, SCHUTT, TITTL, WICHGERS and GREEN. Referred to Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism.

1 **To amend** section 18 of article I of the constitution; **relating to:** the freedom to  
2 gather in places of worship during a state of emergency (first consideration).

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2023 legislature on first consideration, provides that the state or a political subdivision of the state may not order the closure of or forbid gatherings in places of worship in response to a state of emergency at the national, state, or local level, including an emergency related to public health.

A constitutional amendment requires adoption by two successive legislatures, and ratification by the people, before it can become effective.

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3 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That:***

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 18 of article I of the constitution is amended to read:

5 [Article I] Section 18. The right of every person to worship Almighty God  
6 according to the dictates of conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any person  
7 be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any  
8 ministry, without consent; nor shall any control of, or interference with, the rights  
9 of conscience be permitted, or any preference be given by law to any religious

1 establishments or modes of worship; nor shall any money be drawn from the treasury  
2 for the benefit of religious societies, or religious or theological seminaries; nor shall  
3 the state or a political subdivision of the state order the closure of or forbid gatherings  
4 in places of worship in response to a state of emergency at the national, state, or local  
5 level, including an emergency related to public health.

6 ***Be it further resolved, That*** this proposed amendment be referred to the  
7 legislature to be chosen at the next general election and that it be published for three  
8 months previous to the time of holding such election.

9 (END)