CS/HB 215 2022

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to emergency orders prohibiting 3 religious services or activities; creating s. 252.64, F.S.; defining the term "religious institution"; 4 5 providing that an emergency order may not directly or 6 indirectly prohibit a religious institution from 7 regular religious services or activities; providing an 8 exception under certain circumstances; providing an 9 effective date. 10 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 12 Section 1. Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, is created to 13 14 read: 252.64 Protection of religious institutions.-15 16 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "religious 17 institution" has the same meaning as in s. 496.404. 18 (2) An emergency order authorized by this part may not 19 directly or indirectly prohibit a religious institution from 20 conducting regular religious services or activities. However, a 21 general provision in an emergency order which applies uniformly 22 to all entities in the affected jurisdiction may be applied to a 23 religious institution if the provision is in furtherance of a 24 compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest. 25

Page 1 of 2

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

CS/HB 215 2022

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022. 26

Page 2 of 2

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.