HLS 201ES-53 ORIGINAL

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCORMICK

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS: Directs the governor to protect religious freedoms

| 1 | A RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To direct the governor to ensure that the right to individual liberty, the right to freedom of |
| 3 | religion, and the right of the citizens of Louisiana to peaceably assemble are |
| 4 | protected at all times without restriction. |
| 5 | WHEREAS, the importance of protecting religious freedom is recognized in the |
| 6 | Preamble to the Constitution of Louisiana by providing that "We, the people of Louisiana, |
| 7 | grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political, economic, and religious liberties we enjoy, |
| 8 | and desiring to protect individual rights to life, liberty, and property"; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of Louisiana further recognizes |
| 10 | the importance of protecting religious freedom by providing that "No law shall be enacted |
| 11 | respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"; and |
| 12 | WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, provides that |
| 13 | the governor shall "faithfully support the constitution and laws of the state and of the United |
| 14 | States and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed"; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, during the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 793 was |
| 16 | enacted into law providing for the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, R.S. 13:5231 |
| 17 | through 5242; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, R.S. 13:5232(1) provides that the free exercise of religion is a |
| 19 | fundamental right of the highest order in this state; and |
| 20 | WHEREAS, R.S. 13:5232(3) and (4) provide that it was the intent of the legislature |
| 21 | and the people of Louisiana in 1974 to provide the same level of protection for an action of |

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- 1 the government that explicitly burdened religious exercise as for an action that indirectly
- 2 burdened religious exercise through its effect.
- 3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the governor to ensure that the religious liberty
- and right to assemble without restriction of Louisiana citizens be protected at all times, 5
- 6 including during states of emergency.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
- 8 of Louisiana does hereby direct the governor not to authorize, restrict, or otherwise impose
- 9 a penalty for individuals who wish to assemble for religious purposes, according to their
- 10 constitutionally-bestowed rights and liberties.
- 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
- 12 of Louisiana does hereby direct the governor to give absolute assurance to the people of this
- 13 state that their religious liberties will be protected at all times, including during states of
- 14 emergencies.
- 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 16 governor.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 6 Original

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McCormick

Present law (Const. Preamble) provides that the people of Louisiana desire to protect individual rights to liberty, including religious liberty.

Present law (Const. Art. I, §8) provides that no law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

Present law (Const. Art. IV, §5(A)) provides that the governor shall faithfully support the constitution and laws of the state and see that they are faithfully executed.

Present law (R.S. 13:5232) provides for the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, which provides the same level of protection for a governmental action that explicitly burdens religious exercise as for an action that indirectly burdens religious exercise.

Directs the governor to ensure that the religious liberties and rights to assemble without restriction of La. citizens are protected at all times, including during states of emergencies.

Directs the governor not to authorize or impose any mandate that would restrict any individual from assembling and practicing their religious freedoms.