HLS 201ES-53 ENGROSSED

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCORMICK

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS: Requests the governor to protect religious freedoms

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the governor to ensure that the right to individual liberty, the right to
3	freedom of religion, and the right of the citizens of Louisiana to peaceably assemble
4	are 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.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
- 4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor to ensure that the
- 5 religious liberty and right to assemble without restriction of Louisiana citizens be protected
- 6 at all times, including during states of emergency.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
- 8 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor not to authorize, restrict, or
- 9 otherwise impose a penalty for individuals who wish to assemble for religious purposes,
- according to their constitutionally-bestowed rights and liberties.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
- of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governor to give absolute assurance to the
- people of this state that their religious liberties will be protected at all times, including
- during states of emergencies.
- 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)]

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McCormick

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

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

<u>Present law</u> (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.

<u>Present law</u> (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.

Requests 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.

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

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Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

1. Change "direct" to "urge and request".