

1 House Joint Resolution

2 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to
3 Section 3 of Article I of the State
4 Constitution relating to religious freedom.

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6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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8 That the amendment to Section 3 of Article I of the
9 State Constitution set forth below is agreed to and shall be
10 submitted to the electors of Florida for approval or rejection
11 at the general election to be held in November 1998:

12 SECTION 3. Religious freedom.--There shall be no law
13 respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or
14 penalizing the free exercise thereof. The state or any
15 political subdivision or agency thereof may not substantially
16 burden the free exercise of religion, even if the burden
17 results from a rule of general applicability, unless the state
18 demonstrates that application of the burden is in furtherance
19 of a compelling interest and is the least restrictive means of
20 furthering that compelling interest. Religious freedom shall
21 not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace
22 or safety. No revenue of the state or any political
23 subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the
24 public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church,
25 sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian
26 institution.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with the
28 requirements of s. 101.161, Florida Statutes, the title and
29 substance of the amendment proposed herein shall appear on the
30 ballot as follows:

31 PROHIBITING STATE FROM SUBSTANTIALLY BURDENING

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THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

Provides that the state may not substantially burden the free exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the state demonstrates that application of the burden is in furtherance of a compelling interest and is the least-restrictive means of furthering that compelling interest.