

By Senator Bean

4-00072-16

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to churches or religious
3 organizations; creating s. 761.061, F.S.; providing
4 that churches or religious organizations, related
5 organizations, or certain individuals may not be
6 required to solemnize any marriage or provide
7 services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or
8 privileges for related purposes if such action would
9 violate a sincerely held religious belief; prohibiting
10 certain legal actions, penalties, or governmental
11 sanctions against such individuals or entities;
12 providing an effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Section 761.061, Florida Statutes, is created to
17 read:

18 761.061 Rights of certain churches or religious
19 organizations or individuals.-

20 (1) A church or religious organization, an organization
21 supervised or controlled by or in connection with a church or
22 religious organization, an individual employed by a church or
23 religious organization while acting in the scope of that
24 employment, or a clergy member or minister may not be required
25 to solemnize any marriage or provide services, accommodations,
26 facilities, goods, or privileges for a purpose related to the
27 solemnization, formation, or celebration of any marriage if such
28 an action would cause the church, organization, or individual to
29 violate a sincerely held religious belief of the entity or

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30 individual.

31 (2) A refusal to solemnize any marriage or provide
32 services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges under
33 subsection (1) may not serve as the basis for a civil or
34 criminal cause of action or any other action by this state or a
35 political subdivision of this state to penalize or withhold
36 benefits or privileges, including tax exemptions or governmental
37 contracts, grants, or licenses, from any entity or individual
38 protected under subsection (1).

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.