

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  
 17   to 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

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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  
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.