

1                               A bill to be entitled  
 2        An act relating to emergency orders prohibiting  
 3        religious services or activities; creating s. 252.64,  
 4        F.S.; defining the term "religious institution";  
 5        providing that an emergency order may not expressly  
 6        prohibit a religious institution from regular  
 7        religious services or activities; providing an  
 8        exception under certain circumstances; providing an  
 9        effective date.

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

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13               Section 1.   Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 14     read:

15               252.64   Protection of religious institutions.-

16               (1)   For purposes of this section, the term "religious  
 17     institution" has the same meaning as in s. 496.404.

18               (2)   An emergency order authorized by this part may not  
 19     expressly prohibit a religious institution from conducting  
 20     regular religious services or activities. However, a general  
 21     provision in an emergency order which applies uniformly to all  
 22     entities in the affected jurisdiction may be applied to a  
 23     religious institution if the provision is in furtherance of a  
 24     compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive  
 25     means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

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26 |           Section 2.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.           |