

By the Committee on Rules; and Senators Brodeur and Perry

595-01987-22

2022254c1

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

8

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

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11 Section 1. Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, is created to
12 read:

13 252.64 Protection of religious institutions.—

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

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

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