
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2530 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, NELSON, O'NEAL, BROOKS, JOZWIAK, EVERETT,
MALONEY, RAPP, ROTHMAN, GLEIM, REESE, TOOHL, KLUNK, CAUSER,
GAYDOS, SAYLOR, MASSER, B. MILLER, SCHMITT, FRITZ, BERNSTINE,
SANKEY, RYAN, DAVANZO, KNOWLES, KAUFFMAN, JAMES, DIAMOND,
PICKETT, ZIMMERMAN AND SCHLEGEL CULVER, MAY 19, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 19, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 9, 2002 (P.L.1701, No.214),
2 entitled "An act protecting the free exercise of religion;
3 and prescribing the conditions under which government may
4 substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion,"
5 further providing for free exercise of religion protection.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 4 of the act of December 9, 2002
9 (P.L.1701, No.214), known as the Religious Freedom Protection
10 Act, is amended by adding subsections to read:

11 Section 4. Free exercise of religion protected.

12 * * *

13 (c) Emergencies.--Notwithstanding any other provision in
14 this act to the contrary, no order issued pursuant to the
15 authority granted under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to general
16 authority of Governor) nor any control measure taken under the
17 act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500), known as the
18 Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, may do any of the

1 following:

2 (1) Infringe on the right to assemble to worship
3 according to a person's faith.

4 (2) Impact the ability to travel to or from a place of
5 worship.

6 (3) Authorize any adverse action against a religious
7 institution or members of a religious organization for
8 exercising their religion.

9 (d) Definition.--For purposes of this section, the term
10 "adverse action" shall include the application of a civil or
11 criminal penalty or the imposition of an administrative
12 sanction.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.