

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1136  
(Representatives Klemin, Karls, Meier, D. Ruby, Satrom, Steiner, Vetter)  
(Senators Dwyer, Erbele, Kannianen, Larson, Luick)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 14-02.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the exercise of religion.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 14-02.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Exercise of religion.**

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a state or local government entity may not:
  - a. Substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless applying the burden to that person's exercise of religion in a particular situation is essential to further a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling government interest;
  - b. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any secular conduct of reasonably comparable risk; or
  - c. Treat religious conduct more restrictively than any comparable secular conduct because of alleged economic need or benefit.
2. A person claiming to be aggrieved by a violation of this section may assert that violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding and obtain appropriate relief, including costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1136.

House Vote:    Yeas 90            Nays 0            Absent 4

Senate Vote:    Yeas 44            Nays 3            Absent 0

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Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023,

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State