

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2648

By: Hill, Echols, Hardin
(David), Townley, Burns,
Steagall, Crosswhite Hader,
West (Kevin), Cornwell,
Caldwell (Chad), Kendrix,
Dills, Grego, Boles,
Conley, Gann, Mize, Stark,
Russ, Roberts (Eric),
Roberts (Sean), McDugle,
Caldwell (Trey), Bashore,
Wolfley, Moore, West
(Tammy), Miller, Smith,
Dempsey, Baker, Lepak,
McCall, Sims, Lawson,
Williams, Roe, Humphrey,
O'Donnell, Phillips,
Manger, Boatman and McBride
of the House

and

Bullard, Bergstrom,
Stephens, Rogers, Burns and
Pederson of the Senate

An Act relating to officers; amending 51 O.S. 2011,
Section 253, which relates to the free exercise of
religion; prohibiting any governmental entity from
closing any place of worship during an emergency; and
providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Officers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2011, Section 253, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 253. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, no governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.

B. No governmental entity shall substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion unless it demonstrates that application of the burden to the person is:

1. Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and
2. The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

C. Any order or rule issued by any governmental entity pursuant to an emergency that requires closure of any place of worship entitled to the religious exemption found in Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code shall be considered a substantial burden even if the order or rule is one of general applicability.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____