

Defend Religious Liberty

Breaching the Seal of the Confessional

Original Bill: [HB1896](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Raychel Proudie (D)

Description: Allows the reporting of a privileged communication regarding child abuse and neglect that is made to a minister or clergy person.

Position Statement: Oppose: In an effort to address the scourge of child sexual abuse by members of the Church in the past, the state should not infringe upon the First Amendment right of priests to administer the sacrament of confession and to maintain the confidentiality of things disclosed there as required by Canon law. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Church Space/Gun Regulations

Original Bill: [HB1708](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Adam Schnelting (R)

Description: Changes the law regarding firearm concealed carry permits.

Position Statement: Oppose in part: Provision of bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise). 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/29/2024 H - Reported Do Pass

Original Bill: [HB1848](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ben Baker (R)

Description: Changes the law regarding concealed carrying of weapons by allowing firearms in churches and other places of worship with a concealed carry permit.

Position Statement: Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise). 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Immunity for Disclosure of Abuse by Employees

Original Bill: [HB1741](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Doug Richey (R)

Description: Provides immunity from civil liability for disclosures by a charity, nonprofit organization, religious organization, or church of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Position Statement: Support: Non-profits should be immune from civil liability when disclosing to other non-profits incidents of abuse previously reported to the state, as required by law, about which the non-profit is a mandatory reporter. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations

Original Bill: [HB1518](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Prohibits public institutions of higher learning from discriminating against a religious student association or denying a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association.

Position Statement: Support: College campus organizations should not be discriminated against and denied access to campus resources based on their religious beliefs or practices. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing-Special Committee on Government Accountability

Religious Liberty/Infringements

Original Bill: [HB2478](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ashley Aune (D)

Description: Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Position Statement: Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/22/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB787](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Greg Razer (D)

Description: Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Position Statement: Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws
