

SENATE, No. 3896

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 10, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Permits religious services during state of emergency or public health emergency declarations by Governor.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning religious services during certain emergencies,
2 and supplementing P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.) and
3 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation to the
9 contrary, no state of emergency declaration issued by the Governor
10 pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.) shall:

11 (1) infringe on the right to assemble to worship according to a
12 person's faith;

13 (2) impact the ability to travel to or from a place of worship; or

14 (3) authorize any adverse action, including civil or criminal
15 penalties or the imposition of an administrative sanction, against a
16 religious institution or members of a religious organization for
17 exercising their religion.

18 b. Except as provided in subsection a. of this section, this act,
19 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall
20 not prohibit the Governor from requiring religious organizations to
21 comply with health, safety, or occupancy requirements issued by
22 the State or federal government that are applicable to all
23 organizations and businesses that provide essential services.
24

25 2. a. Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or regulation to the
26 contrary, no public health emergency declaration issued by the
27 Governor pursuant to P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) shall:

28 (1) infringe on the right to assemble to worship according to a
29 person's faith;

30 (2) impact the ability to travel to or from a place of worship; or

31 (3) authorize any adverse action, including civil or criminal
32 penalties or the imposition of an administrative sanction, against a
33 religious institution or members of a religious organization for
34 exercising their religion.

35 b. Except as provided in subsection a. of this section, this act,
36 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall
37 not prohibit the Governor from requiring religious organizations to
38 comply with health, safety, or occupancy requirements issued by
39 the State or federal government that are applicable to all
40 organizations and businesses that provide essential services.
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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill would permit religious organizations to continue
48 operating and engaging in religious services during a declaration by
49 the Governor of a state of emergency or public health emergency.

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1 The bill does not prohibit the Governor from requiring religious
2 organizations to comply with health, safety, or occupancy
3 requirements issued by the State or federal government that are
4 applicable to all organizations and businesses that provide essential
5 services.