



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 237: Various Criminal and Election Law Changes, Sec. 3: Treatment of Religious Institutions During a State of Emergency

Committee:		Date:	August 19, 2024
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	Sec. 3 of S.L. 2024-16		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 3 of S.L. 2024-16 prevents the executive branch or local governments from distinguishing between religious institutions and other entities during an emergency in a way that imposes additional limitations on religious institutions.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 21, 2024, and the veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 27, 2024.

This section becomes effective October 1, 2024, and applies to any emergency orders or regulations in effect on or after that date.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

SECTION 3 – PROHIBIT CERTAIN ORDERS AND REGULATIONS FROM IMPOSING ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO BUSINESSES, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, OR OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THE SAME OR SIMILAR EMERGENCY

Under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes, the executive branch and local governments have broad legal authority during a declared state of emergency.

Section 3 limits the discretionary authority of the executive branch and local governments during a state of emergency. Specifically, any emergency orders or regulations may not distinguish between religious institutions and other entities in a way that imposes additional limitations on religious institutions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 21, 2024, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 27, 2024.

This section becomes effective October 1, 2024, and applies to any emergency orders or regulations in effect on or after that date.

*Robert Ryan and Jessica Sammons, Staff Attorneys for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed substantially to this summary.

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