

1 HB134
2 208420-1
3 By Representative Brown (C)
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 01/26/2021

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Governor or Legislature may proclaim the existence of a state of emergency under certain conditions, during which time the Governor may exercise additional emergency powers.

This bill would provide that any person engaged in the exercise of religion is exempt from any order, rule, regulation, or other requirement adopted or otherwise made during the existence of a state of emergency.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955; to provide an exemption to religious organizations under certain conditions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. A church, temple, synagogue, mosque, or
2 other religious organization, and any congregation thereof, is
3 exempt from any emergency order, rule, regulation, or other
4 requirement adopted or otherwise made during the existence of
5 a state of emergency, including a state of public health
6 emergency or a state technological emergency, proclaimed
7 pursuant to Article 1, Chapter 9, Title 31, Code of Alabama
8 1975, the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, to the
9 extent the emergency order, rule, regulation, or other
10 requirement imposes an undue burden on the religious
11 organization's free exercise of religion.

12 Section 2. This act shall become effective
13 immediately following its passage and approval by the
14 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.