

HB 575 -- MISSOURI RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Riley

This bill establishes the "Missouri Religious Freedom Protection Act", which prohibits a public official, as defined in the bill, from issuing an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting religious groups from holding religious services or meetings.

The bill also prohibits a public official from issuing an order that has the effect of limiting or prohibiting places of worship from holding religious services or meetings.

These prohibitions do not apply to religious groups using places of worship to intentionally commit or plan to commit acts of violence or harm against others, or to emergency evacuation orders involving imminent danger from flooding, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, terrorist threats, civil unrest, or hazardous material incidents that apply generally to the area where the worship or the residences of its members are located. Once the imminent danger has passed, religious service will be allowed to resume.

These prohibitions can not be interpreted to exclude places of worship from complying with applicable building and fire codes.