

Madam Chair Kellie Warren
Senate Committee on Judiciary
SB541

1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

§ 7. Religious liberty property qualification for public office. The right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any person be compelled to attend or support any form of worship; nor shall any control of or interference with the rights of conscience be permitted, nor any preference be given by law to any religious establishment or mode of worship. No religious test or property qualification shall be required for any office of public trust, nor for any vote at any elections, nor shall any person be incompetent to testify on account of religious belief.

(Kansas Preservation of Religious Freedom Act)

60-5302 (c) "Exercise of religion" means the practice or observance of religion under section 7 of the bill of rights of the constitution of the state of Kansas and the free exercise clause of the first amendment to the constitution of the United States and includes the right to act or refuse to act in a manner substantially motivated by a sincerely-held religious tenet or belief, whether or not the exercise is compulsory or a central part or requirement of the person's religious tenets or beliefs. 60-5304. Exercise of religion; compelling governmental interest. In determining whether a compelling governmental interest is sufficient to justify a substantial burden on a person's exercise of religion pursuant to K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 60-5303, and amendments thereto, only those interests of the highest order and not otherwise served can overbalance the fundamental right to the exercise of religion preserved by this act. In order to prevail under the standard established pursuant to subsection (a) of K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 60-5303, and amendments thereto, the government shall demonstrate that such standard is satisfied through application of the asserted violation of this act to the particular claimant whose sincere exercise of religion has been burdened. The religious liberty interest protected by this act is an independent liberty that occupies a preferred position, and no encroachments upon this liberty shall be permitted, whether direct or indirect, unless required by clear and compelling governmental interests of the highest order.

SB40

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 48-925a, as amended by section 6 of 2021 Senate Bill No. 14, is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-925a. (a) During any state of disaster emergency related to the COVID- 19 public health emergency declared pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, the governor may not issue an order that substantially burdens or inhibits the gathering or movement of individuals or operation of any religious, civic, business or commercial activity, whether for-profit or not-for-profit. (b) Any order issued that violates or exceeds the restrictions provided in subsection (a) shall not have the force and effect of law during the period of a state of disaster emergency declared under K.S.A. 48-924(b), and amendments thereto, and any such order shall be null and void.

Thanks for listening.

Representative
Trevor Jacobs