

Senate File 473

H-8370

1 Amend Senate File 473, as amended, passed, and reprinted by
2 the Senate, as follows:

3 1. By striking everything after the enacting clause and
4 inserting:

5 <Section 1. Section 237.10, Code 2026, is amended by adding
6 the following new subsection:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 9A. a. The department shall not do any of
8 the following:

9 (1) Require an individual licensee or approved kinship
10 caregiver to affirm, accept, or support a policy that conflicts
11 with the person's sincerely held religious or moral beliefs.

12 (2) Preclude a person from being licensed as an individual
13 licensee or approved as an approved kinship caregiver based
14 on the person's sincerely held religious or moral beliefs,
15 including but not limited to the person's intent to guide,
16 instruct, or raise a child in a manner consistent with the
17 person's sincerely held religious or moral beliefs.

18 b. (1) The department, and the department's designees,
19 shall not adopt a standard, policy, or rule that precludes an
20 individual licensee or an approved kinship caregiver from being
21 considered as a possible placement for any child based on the
22 person's sincerely held religious or moral beliefs.

23 (2) This paragraph shall not preclude the department,
24 or the department's designee, from taking into account the
25 sincerely held moral and religious beliefs of a child and the
26 child's family of origin as compared to the sincerely held
27 moral and religious beliefs of a potential individual licensee
28 or approved kinship caregiver when determining the most
29 appropriate placement for the child consistent with the best
30 interests of the child.

31 c. (1) A current or prospective individual licensee or
32 approved kinship caregiver may bring an action asserting
33 a violation of this subsection. A court may provide the
34 current or prospective individual licensee or approved kinship
35 caregiver injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or other

1 relief as the court deems appropriate, and may award reasonable
2 attorney fees and costs.

3 (2) The attorney general may bring an action to enforce this
4 subsection.

5 Sec. 2. Section 600.7A, Code 2026, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **600.7A Adoption services provided by or through the**
8 **department — selection of adoptive parent criteria.**

9 1. The department shall adopt rules which provide that if
10 adoption services are provided by or through the department,
11 notwithstanding any other selection of adoptive parent
12 criteria, the overriding criterion shall be a preference for
13 placing a child in a stable home environment as expeditiously
14 as possible.

15 2. a. The department shall not do any of the following:

16 (1) Require a prospective adoptive parent to affirm,
17 accept, or support a policy that conflicts with the person's
18 sincerely held religious or moral beliefs.

19 (2) Preclude a person from being qualified as a prospective
20 adoptive parent based on the person's sincerely held religious
21 or moral beliefs, including but not limited to the person's
22 intent to guide, instruct, or raise a child in a manner
23 consistent with the person's sincerely held religious or moral
24 beliefs.

25 b. (1) The department, and the department's designees,
26 shall not adopt a standard, policy, or rule that precludes
27 a person from being considered as any child's prospective
28 adoptive parent based on the person's sincerely held religious
29 or moral beliefs.

30 (2) This paragraph shall not preclude the department from
31 taking into account the sincerely held moral and religious
32 beliefs of a child and the child's family of origin as
33 compared to the sincerely held moral and religious beliefs
34 of a prospective adoptive parent when determining the most
35 appropriate placement for the child consistent with the best

1 interests of the child.

2 c. (1) A prospective adoptive parent may bring an action
3 asserting a violation of this subsection. A court may provide
4 a prospective adoptive parent injunctive relief, declaratory
5 relief, or other relief as the court deems appropriate, and may
6 award reasonable attorney fees and costs.

7 (2) The attorney general may bring an action to enforce this
8 subsection.

9 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES — CHILD
10 FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION SERVICES — DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF
11 RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

12 1. The department of health and human services shall
13 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to amend the department's
14 rules relating to child foster care and adoption recruitment,
15 retention, training, and support services to provide, unless
16 otherwise provided by federal law or regulation, that an
17 entity that holds itself out to the public as a religious
18 organization as defined in section 13C.1, and that has a
19 contract, subcontract, or other agreement with the department
20 or an agent of the department to provide child foster care
21 or adoption services, shall not be required to provide the
22 contracted, subcontracted, or other agreed upon services in a
23 manner inconsistent with the religious organization's sincerely
24 held religious beliefs.

25 2. a. This section shall not prohibit the department from
26 determining the best interests of a child in the provision of
27 child foster care, as that term is defined in section 237.1, or
28 adoption services to the child.

29 b. This section shall not relieve the department of the
30 department's duty to determine the best interests of a child in
31 the provision of child foster care or adoption services to the
32 child.>

33 2. Title page, line 1, by striking <certain>

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