

House File 2694 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2694
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2145)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the regulation of places and practices of
2 worship by the governor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **7.19 Regulation of places and**
2 **practices of worship — limitation.**

3 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
4 governor shall not close, place a mandate on, or otherwise
5 regulate a place or practice of worship for any reason, including
6 through the proclamation of a disaster emergency pursuant to
7 chapter 29C or public health disaster pursuant to section
8 135.144. For the purposes of this section, "place of worship"
9 means a building in which an active congregation is devoted to
10 worship.

11 **EXPLANATION**

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill prohibits the governor from closing, placing a
15 mandate on, or otherwise regulating a place or practice of
16 worship for any reason, including through the proclamation of a
17 disaster emergency or public health disaster. The bill defines
18 "place of worship" as a building in which an active congregation
19 is devoted to worship.