

House File 609 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 609
BY SHIPLEY

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the use of certain psychoactive substances
- 2 under the religious freedom restoration Act.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 675.3, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 2. "*Exercise of religion*" means the practice or observance of
4 religion. "*Exercise of religion*" includes but is not limited to
5 the ability to act or refuse to act in a manner substantially
6 motivated by one's sincerely held religious belief, whether or
7 not the exercise is compulsory or central to a larger system of
8 religious belief. "*Exercise of religion*" includes the use of
9 psychoactive substances, including but not limited to psilocybin
10 and peyote, in religious or spiritual ceremonies.

11 Sec. 2. Section 675.4, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 1. State action shall not substantially burden a person's
14 exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule
15 of general applicability, including but not limited to chapter
16 124 concerning controlled substances, unless the government
17 demonstrates that applying the burden to that person's exercise
18 of religion is in furtherance of a compelling governmental
19 interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that
20 compelling governmental interest.

21 EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill relates to the use of certain psychoactive
25 substances under the religious freedom restoration Act (Code
26 chapter 675).

27 The bill provides that the "exercise of religion" includes
28 the use of psychoactive substances, including but not limited to
29 psilocybin and peyote, in religious or spiritual ceremonies.

30 The bill provides that state action shall not substantially
31 burden a person's exercise of religion, even if the burden
32 results from a rule of general applicability, including but not
33 limited to Code chapter 124 concerning controlled substances,
34 unless the government demonstrates that applying the burden
35 to that person's exercise of religion is in furtherance of a

1 compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive
2 means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

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