

**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:

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,  
6 including through the proclamation of a disaster emergency  
7 pursuant to chapter 29C or public health disaster pursuant to  
8 section 135.144. For the purposes of this section, "*place of*  
9 *worship*" means a building in which an active congregation is  
10 devoted to 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  
17 of a disaster emergency or public health disaster. The bill  
18 defines "place of worship" as a building in which an active  
19 congregation is devoted to worship.