

**House File 2694 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 2694  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2145)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 10, 2026)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the regulation of certain places and  
2 activities by the governor.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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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 Sec. 2. Section 29C.6, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 1. a. After finding a disaster exists or is threatened,  
14 proclaim a state of disaster emergency. This proclamation shall  
15 be in writing, indicate the area affected and the facts upon  
16 which it is based, be signed by the governor, and be filed with  
17 the secretary of state. If the state of disaster emergency  
18 specifically constitutes a public health disaster as defined  
19 in section 135.140, the written proclamation shall include  
20 a statement to that effect. A state of disaster emergency  
21 shall continue for thirty days, unless sooner terminated or  
22 extended in writing by the governor. The general assembly may,  
23 by concurrent resolution, rescind this proclamation. If the  
24 general assembly is not in session, the legislative council  
25 may, by majority vote, rescind this proclamation. Rescission  
26 shall be effective upon filing of the concurrent resolution  
27 or resolution of the legislative council with the secretary of  
28 state. A proclamation of disaster emergency shall activate the  
29 disaster response and recovery aspect of the state, local, and  
30 interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans applicable to the  
31 political subdivision or area in question and be authority for  
32 the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan applies,  
33 and for use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, and  
34 materials and facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be  
35 made available.

1 b. A measure dictated in a state of disaster emergency shall  
2 not do any of the following:

3 (1) Authorize a change to established laws, policies, or  
4 regulations governing a local, county, or state election for  
5 public office absent prior approval of the general assembly.

6 (2) Regulate conduct within a private residence.

7 (3) Require a vaccination.

8 c. A measure dictated in a state of disaster emergency that  
9 constitutes a public health disaster, as defined in section  
10 135.140, shall not require but may recommend that a private  
11 business operating within this state cease the business's lawful  
12 operations.

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