

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:

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

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