

HOUSE BILL 2375

By Holt

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
Chapter 3, relative to the "Religious Freedom
Restoration Act".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) No minister, clergy member, pastor, religious organization, organization supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, or individual employed by a religious organization, while acting in the scope of that employment, shall be required to solemnize any marriage or provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges for a purpose related to the solemnization, formation, or celebration of any marriage if the action would cause the individual or organization to violate a sincerely held religious belief.

(b) The refusal to provide the services listed in subsection (a) shall not be the basis for a civil cause of action, criminal prosecution, or any other action by this state or a political subdivision of this state to penalize or withhold benefits or privileges, including tax exemptions or governmental contracts, grants, or licenses, from any protected individual or organization.

(c) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act".

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.