

ENROLLED ACT NO. 66, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2025 GENERAL SESSION

AN ACT relating to religious freedom; creating the Religious Freedom Restoration Act; providing definitions; limiting specified governmental actions that burden religious freedom; authorizing claims and defenses against governmental action that burden religious freedom; providing exceptions; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 9-25-101 through 9-25-104 are created to read:

CHAPTER 25
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

ARTICLE 1
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT

9-25-101. Religious Freedom Restoration Act; short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Wyoming Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

9-25-102. Definitions.

(a) As used in this act:

(i) "Burden" means any action that, either directly or indirectly, constrains, inhibits, curtails or denies the exercise of religion including, but not limited to:

(A) Withholding of benefits;

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(B) Assessing criminal, civil or administrative penalties;

(C) Exclusion from governmental programs;
or

(D) Denial of access to governmental facilities.

(ii) "Compelling governmental interest" means a governmental interest of the highest order that cannot otherwise be achieved without burdening the exercise of religion;

(iii) "Exercise of religion" means the practice or observance of religion, including an act or refusal to act, that is substantially motivated by a sincerely held religious belief, whether or not compelled by or central to a system of religious belief;

(iv) "Person" means any natural person, association, partnership, corporation, religious institution or other legal entity;

(v) "State action" means the implementation or application of any law, including but not limited to state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and policies, whether statutory or otherwise, or action by the state or a political subdivision, local government, municipality, instrumentality or public official authorized by law in the state of Wyoming;

(vi) "This act" means W.S. 9-25-101 through 9-25-104.

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9-25-103. Limitation on state action; exception.

(a) State action shall not substantially burden a person's right to the exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless it is demonstrated that applying the burden to that person's exercise of religion in that particular instance is:

(i) Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and

(ii) The least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

(b) This act shall apply to all state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and policies, and their implementation, whether statutory or otherwise and whether adopted before, on or after the effective date of this act.

9-25-104. Claims.

A person whose exercise of religion has been substantially burdened or is likely to be substantially burdened in violation of this act may assert the violation or impending violation as a claim or defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding, regardless of whether the state or one (1) of its political subdivisions is a party to the proceeding. The person asserting the claim or defense may obtain appropriate relief, including injunctive relief and declaratory relief.

ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0207

ENGROSSED

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Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2025.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk