RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS/LIBERTIES. Constitutional Amendment to provide that the right of freedom of worship in churches or other places of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection. (2/3-CA13s1(A))
worship in a church or other place of worship.

(C) If a state or local governmental body or official acts in a manner that is contrary to the provisions of this Section and a challenge is brought related to that governmental action, the court shall apply strict scrutiny test in order to protect the fundamental right to worship in a church or other place of worship, unless there is a higher level of protection or scrutiny recognized and applied by the court.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the statewide election to be held on October 14, 2023.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to provide that the freedom of worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection?

(Adds Article XII, Section 17)

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST
SB 63 Original 2023 Regular Session Mizell

Present constitution provides that no law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the freedom to worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution and clarifies that proposed constitutional amendment is not intended to alter or limit the free exercise of religion guaranteed in the present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment further provides that if the state or local government acts in a manner contrary to the proposed constitutional amendment, a court hearing the challenge to that governmental action is to apply the standard of strict scrutiny, unless a higher level of protection is recognized and applied by the court.
Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on October 14, 2023.

(Adds Const. Art. XII, Sec. 17)