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

DIGEST

SB 63 Engrossed | 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)