

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 148 (HB 294)

2026 Regular Session

Firment

Existing law allows the use of force against trespassers who refuse to leave certain private property.

New law adds that the private property right to use force against trespassers extends to churches and other places of worship and to persons who are lawfully present at churches and other places of worship, including the right to exclude people who trespass or cause substantial disruption.

New law describes when the use of force is appropriate and provides immunity from liability when use of force is appropriately made.

New law prohibits the use of deadly force except as otherwise provided in existing law related to self-defense.

New law provides for an immunity hearing in cases against a religious leader or lawfully present person at a church or other place of worship who uses force.

New law allows for peaceful protests outside of the church or other place of worship that do not impede access to or from the church or other place of worship.

New law defines "church or other place of worship", "religious leader", and "substantial disruption".

New law adds churches and other places of worship to the list of places where people can use force or violence to prevent unlawful entry by another person.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 14:19(A)(1)(b)(i) and (2) and (B)(intro. para.) and (1); Adds R.S. 13:5233.2)