

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 63

BY SENATOR MIZELL

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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))

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to add Article XII, Section 17 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to religious freedom; to provide that the freedom of worship in churches or other places of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection; to provide for the highest level of scrutiny by a court; to provide for intent; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to add Article XII, Section 17 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§17. Freedom of worship in churches or other places of worship

Section 17.(A) 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.

(B) This Section shall not alter or limit Article 1, Section 8 of this constitution in any way. The free exercise of religion guaranteed by Article 1, Section 8 of this constitution shall not be limited to the fundamental right to

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)