

**SSB 6239 - S AMD 12**

By Senators Fain, Hill, Hatfield, Haugen

ADOPTED 02/01/2012

1 On page 2, after line 16, insert the following:

2 "(4) No regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest,  
3 imam, rabbi, or similar official of any religious organization is  
4 required to solemnize or recognize any marriage. A regularly licensed  
5 or ordained minister or priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of any  
6 religious organization shall be immune from any civil claim or cause of  
7 action based on a refusal to solemnize or recognize any marriage under  
8 this section. No state agency or local government may base a decision  
9 to penalize, withhold benefits from, or refuse to contract with any  
10 religious organization on the refusal of a person associated with such  
11 religious organization to solemnize or recognize a marriage under this  
12 section.

13 (5) No religious organization is required to provide  
14 accommodations, facilities, advantages, privileges, services, or goods  
15 related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.

16 (6) A religious organization shall be immune from any civil claim  
17 or cause of action, including a claim pursuant to chapter 49.60 RCW,  
18 based on its refusal to provide accommodations, facilities, advantages,  
19 privileges, services, or goods related to the solemnization or  
20 celebration of a marriage.

21 (7) For purposes of this section:

22 (a) "Recognize" means to provide religious-based services that:

23 (i) Are delivered by a religious organization, or by an individual  
24 who is managed, supervised, or directed by a religious organization;  
25 and

26 (ii) Are designed for married couples or couples engaged to marry  
27 and are directly related to solemnizing, celebrating, strengthening, or  
28 promoting a marriage, such as religious counseling programs, courses,  
29 retreats, and workshops; and

30 (b) "Religious organization" includes, but is not limited to,  
31 churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, nondenominational ministries,

1 interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, mission  
2 organizations, faith-based social agencies, and other entities whose  
3 principal purpose is the study, practice, or advancement of religion."

4 On page 3, at the beginning of line 8, strike "(1)"

5 On page 3, beginning on line 16, strike all of subsection (2)

6 On page 4, beginning on line 9, strike all of section 7

7 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any  
8 internal references accordingly.

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9 On page 1, line 5 of the title, strike "adding new sections" and  
10 insert "adding a new section"

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