

MOOT

Senators Dolezal of the 27th, Kennedy of the 18th, Brass of the 28th and Gooch of the 51st offered the following amendment #1:

1 *Amend the House substitute to SB 429 (LC 56 0208S) by replacing lines 1 through the end*
2 *with the following:*

3 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 and Chapter 16 of Title 51 of the Official Code
4 of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to emergency management and
5 COVID-19 pandemic business safety, respectively, so as to revise provisions relating to
6 emergencies; to prohibit any governmental entity from discriminating against and closing a
7 place of worship during an emergency; to provide for declaratory or injunctive relief; to
8 provide for applicability of certain provisions relating to liability; to amend an Act relating
9 to torts to provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding COVID-19, approved
10 August 5, 2020 (Ga. L. 2020, p. 798), as amended by an Act approved May 4, 2021
11 (Ga. L. 2021, p. 341), so as to repeal the applicability provision; to provide for related
12 matters; to provide for a short title; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting
13 laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

15 **PART I**
16 **SECTION 1-1.**

17 Part I of this Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Protecting Religious Assembly in
18 States of Emergency (PRAISE) Act."

SECTION 1-2.

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20 Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
21 general provisions relative to emergency management, is amended by adding a new Code
22 section to read as follows:

23 "38-3-8.

24 (a) Any order, rule, regulation, or other directive issued by any governmental entity
25 pursuant to an emergency or health or safety determination that requires closure or
26 limitation of any business or other facility otherwise open to public use or patronage but
27 which exempts in whole or in part any particular entity or set of entities shall exempt to the
28 same extent any place of worship entitled to the religious exemption found in 26 U.S.C.
29 Section 501(c)(3) or 26 U.S.C. Section 508(c)(1)(A) in effect on January 1, 2024.

30 (b) Any person or entity injured by a violation of subsection (a) of this Code section may
31 bring a civil action for declaratory or injunctive relief in any court of competent
32 jurisdiction.

33 (c) This Code section shall be construed to afford to religious institutions and places of
34 worship the same degree of freedom to meet as is afforded to the most favored entity or set
35 of entities.

36 (d) No provision of this Code section which interferes with or contradicts 42 U.S.C.
37 Section 247 of the Public Health Service Act, 50 U.S.C. Sections 1601-1651 of the
38 National Emergencies Act, or any other provision of federal law shall be effective."

PART II**SECTION 2-1.**

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41 Chapter 16 of Title 51 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to COVID-19
42 pandemic business safety, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

43 "51-16-6.

44 This chapter shall apply to causes of action accruing:

45 (1) On or after August 5, 2020, until July 14, 2022; provided, however, that the
46 provisions of this chapter as they existed during such period shall apply to such causes
47 of action; and

48 (2) On and after the effective date of this Code section."

49 **SECTION 2-2.**

50 An Act relating to torts to provide certain immunities from liability claims regarding
51 COVID-19, approved August 5, 2020 (Ga. L. 2020, p. 798), as amended by an Act approved
52 May 4, 2021 (Ga. L. 2021, p. 341), is amended by repealing and reserving Section 4.

53 **PART III**

54 **SECTION 3-1.**

55 This Act shall become effective upon approval by the Governor or upon becoming law
56 without such approval.

57 **SECTION 3-2.**

58 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.