

AN ACT

relating to a privilege from disclosure to governmental units for certain evidence concerning sermons delivered by a religious leader.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 6, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Chapter 150A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 150A. DISCOVERY BY GOVERNMENTAL UNIT

Sec. 150A.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Governmental unit" has the meaning assigned by Section 101.001.

(2) "Religious organization" means an organization that qualifies as a religious organization under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

(3) "Religious worship" has the meaning assigned by Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Sec. 150A.002. SERMONS PRIVILEGED FROM DISCLOSURE TO GOVERNMENTAL UNIT. A governmental unit may not, in any civil action or other civil or administrative proceeding to which the governmental unit is a party, compel the production or disclosure of a written copy or audio or video recording of a sermon delivered by a religious leader during religious worship of a religious organization or compel the religious leader to testify regarding the sermon.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 24 passed the Senate on
March 8, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 24 passed the House on
May 6, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, one present
not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor