

1-1 By: Huffman, et al. S.B. No. 24
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 20, 2016; January 24, 2017,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
 1-4 February 21, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas
 1-5 8, Nays 0; February 21, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a privilege from disclosure to governmental units for
 1-20 certain evidence concerning sermons delivered by a religious
 1-21 leader.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Title 6, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is
 1-24 amended by adding Chapter 150A to read as follows:

1-25 CHAPTER 150A. DISCOVERY BY GOVERNMENTAL UNIT

1-26 Sec. 150A.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-27 (1) "Governmental unit" has the meaning assigned by
 1-28 Section 101.001.

1-29 (2) "Religious organization" means an organization
 1-30 that qualifies as a religious organization under Section 11.20, Tax
 1-31 Code.

1-32 (3) "Religious worship" has the meaning assigned by
 1-33 Section 11.20, Tax Code.

1-34 Sec. 150A.002. SERMONS PRIVILEGED FROM DISCLOSURE TO
 1-35 GOVERNMENTAL UNIT. A governmental unit may not, in any civil action
 1-36 or other civil or administrative proceeding to which the
 1-37 governmental unit is a party, compel the production or disclosure
 1-38 of a written copy or audio or video recording of a sermon delivered
 1-39 by a religious leader during religious worship of a religious
 1-40 organization or compel the religious leader to testify regarding
 1-41 the sermon.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-43 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-44 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-45 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-46 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

1-47 * * * * *