

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 23, 2021**

**TO:** Honorable Chris Paddie, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB525** by Shaheen (Relating to the protection of religious organizations.), **As Introduced**

<p><b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b></p>
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The bill would amend the Government Code by adding Chapter 2401, relating to the protection of religious organizations. The bill would prohibit a governmental entity from prohibiting a religious organization from engaging in religious and other related activities at any time, including during a declared state of disaster. The bill would waive governmental and sovereign immunity. The bill would authorize the attorney general to bring an action for injunctive or declaratory relief against a governmental entity or an office or employee of a governmental entity to enforce compliance.

It is assumed that the costs associated with the bill's provisions could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Admin, 300 Trusteed Programs - Gov, 302 Office of the Attorney General, 537 State Health Services

**LBB Staff:** JMc, SMAT, SD, BRI, AF