

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

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

**March 31, 2021**

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

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

**IN RE:** **HB1239** by Sanford (relating to the prohibited suspension of laws protecting religious freedom and prohibited closure of places of worship.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

<p><b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b></p>
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The bill would amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to prohibit a government agency or public official from issuing an order that closes or has the effect of closing places of worship in Texas or in a geographic area of the state. The bill would also provide that a person whose free exercise of religion has been substantially burdened in violation of the new prohibition may assert that violation as a defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding without regard to whether the proceeding is brought in the name of the state or by any other person.

According to the Office of Court Administration, no significant fiscal impact to the state court system is anticipated.

**Local Government Impact**

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

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Admin

**LBB Staff:** JMc, SMAT, MW, BH