S.B. No. 694

AN ACT

relating to liability of a religious organization or an employee or volunteer of a religious organization for security services provided to the organization.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 84, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 84.0067 to read as follows:

Sec. 84.0067.  LIABILITY ARISING FROM PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES TO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Religious organization" means a charitable organization that is a religious organization under Section 110.011(b).

(2)  "Security personnel" means an individual:

(A)  whom a religious organization hires to provide security services to the organization as an employee; or

(B)  who is a volunteer of a religious organization whose duties or functions include providing security services to the organization.

(b)  A religious organization or security personnel of a religious organization is immune from civil liability for any act or omission by the security personnel resulting in death, damage, or injury if the security personnel was acting in the course and scope of the security personnel's employment or volunteer duties or functions, as applicable, to provide security services to the organization, including:

(1)  notwithstanding Section 84.007(a), an intentional act; and

(2)  an act involving possession or use of a firearm.

SECTION 2.  Section 84.0067, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_President of the Senate             Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 694 passed the Senate on April 12, 2023, by the following vote:  Yeas 21, Nays 9.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 694 passed the House on May 23, 2023, by the following vote:  Yeas 86, Nays 53, three present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor