

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 57-2.03, relating to religious*
3 *freedom; marriage solemnization, participation, and beliefs.*

4 [S 41]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 57-2.03 as follows:**8 **§ 57-2.03. Religious freedom; marriage.**9 *A. For purposes of this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:*

10 *"Penalty" means any action taken by the Commonwealth, or its political subdivisions or*
11 *representatives or agents, that (i) alters in any way the tax treatment of, or causes any tax, tax penalty,*
12 *or payment to be assessed against, or denies, delays, or revokes an exemption from taxation of, any*
13 *person; (ii) disallows a deduction for tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by any*
14 *person; (iii) withholds, reduces, excludes, terminates, or otherwise makes unavailable or denies (a) any*
15 *state grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license,*
16 *certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to any person; (b)*
17 *any entitlement or benefit under a state benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or*
18 *eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to any person; or (c) any entitlement to*
19 *state property, facilities, educational institutions, speech forums, or charitable fundraising campaigns*
20 *from or to any person.*

21 *"Person" means any (i) religious organization, (ii) organization supervised or controlled by or*
22 *operated in connection with a religious organization, (iii) individual employed by a religious*
23 *organization while acting in the scope of his paid or volunteer employment, (iv) successor,*
24 *representative, agent, agency, or instrumentality of any of the foregoing, or (v) clergy member or*
25 *minister.*

26 *B. No person shall be:*27 *1. Required to participate in the solemnization of any marriage; or*

28 *2. Subject to any penalty, any civil liability, or any other action by the Commonwealth, or its*
29 *political subdivisions or representatives or agents, solely on account of such person's belief, speech, or*
30 *action in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction that marriage is or*
31 *should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.*

ENROLLED

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