

## 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 1324]

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; or (iii) withholds, reduces, excludes, terminates, or otherwise makes unavailable or denies (a)*  
15 *any 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 by the Commonwealth, or its political subdivisions or representatives or*  
29 *agents, notwithstanding any other provision of law, 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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