

## CHAPTER 2022-208

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 254

An act relating to religious institutions; creating s. 252.64, F.S.; defining the term “religious institution”; providing that an emergency order may not directly or indirectly prohibit religious services or activities; providing an exception under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

252.64 Protection of religious institutions.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “religious institution” has the same meaning as in s. 496.404.

(2) An emergency order authorized by this part may not directly or indirectly prohibit a religious institution from conducting regular religious services or activities. However, a general provision in an emergency order which applies uniformly to all entities in the affected jurisdiction may be applied to a religious institution if the provision is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2022.