SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 942

A bill to amend 1939 PA 280, entitled

"The social welfare act,"

(MCL 400.1 to 400.119b) by adding section 57i.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1   SEC. 57I. (1) THE FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY SHALL COOPER-

2 ATE WITH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO ALLOW THOSE ORGANIZATIONS TO

3 COMPETE ON THE SAME BASIS AS ANY OTHER PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR

4 CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT

5 LIMITED TO, MENTORING OR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES. THE FAMILY INDE-

6 PENDENCE AGENCY SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A RELIGIOUS ORGAN-

7 IZATION THAT SEEKS A CONTRACT DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION ON THE

8 BASIS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S RELIGIOUS CHARACTER.

9   (2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, A RELIGIOUS

10 ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL IN

11 REGARD TO RENDERING ASSISTANCE FUNDED BY THE FAMILY INDEPENDENCE

1 AGENCY ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION, A RELIGIOUS BELIEF, OR REFUSAL

2 TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN A RELIGIOUS PRACTICE.

3   (3) A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION THAT ACCEPTS FUNDS FROM THE

4 FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY TO PROVIDE SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS

5 SECTION RETAINS ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL

6 GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION'S CONTROL OVER

7 THE DEFINITION, DEVELOPMENT, PRACTICE, AND EXPRESSION OF ITS

8 RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO

9 ALTER ITS FORM OF INTERNAL GOVERNANCE, TO REMOVE RELIGIOUS ART,

10 ICONS, SCRIPTURE, OR OTHER SYMBOLS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO

11 CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, OR TO ACCEPT CERTIFICATES, VOUCH-

12 ERS, OR OTHER FORMS OF DISBURSEMENT, FUNDED BY THE FAMILY INDE-

13 PENDENCE AGENCY.

14   (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION" MEANS

15 A CHURCH, ECCLESIASTICAL CORPORATION, OR GROUP NOT ORGANIZED FOR

16 PECUNIARY PROFIT THAT GATHERS IN COMMON MEMBERSHIP FOR MUTUAL

17 SUPPORT AND EDIFICATION IN PIETY, RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES, AND WOR-

18 SHIP OF A SUPREME DEITY.