

HOUSE BILL No. 4858

September 9, 2015, Introduced by Rep. Gamrat and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1846 RS 83, entitled
"Of marriage and the solemnization thereof,"
(MCL 551.1 to 551.18) by adding section 8.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 8. (1) A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, CLERIC, OR RELIGIOUS
2 PRACTITIONER IS NOT REQUIRED TO SOLEMNIZE OR RECOGNIZE A MARRIAGE
3 THAT VIOLATES HIS OR HER SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEF. A
4 MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, CLERIC, OR RELIGIOUS PRACTITIONER IS IMMUNE
5 FROM ANY CIVIL LIABILITY OR CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CAUSE OF ACTION BASED
6 ON A REFUSAL TO SOLEMNIZE OR RECOGNIZE A MARRIAGE THAT VIOLATES HIS
7 OR HER SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

8 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "RECOGNIZE" MEANS TO PROVIDE
9 RELIGIOUS SERVICES THAT ARE DELIVERED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNDER
10 THE SUPERVISION OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION AND DESIGNED FOR A

1 MARRIED COUPLE OR A COUPLE ENGAGED TO MARRY AND ARE DIRECTLY
2 RELATED TO SOLEMNIZING, CELEBRATING, STRENGTHENING, OR PROMOTING A
3 MARRIAGE.

4 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
5 after the date it is enacted into law.