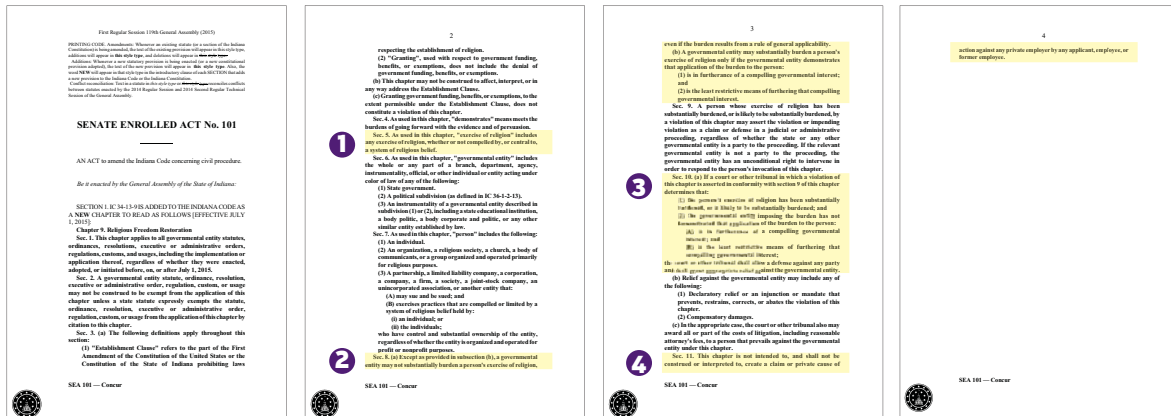


What is the RFRA?

By Anna Boone, Carley Lanich and Kathryn Moody | region@idsnews.com

Gov. Mike Pence signed Senate Bill 101, known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, into law Thursday. Since then, protests have taken place throughout Indiana and the law has received national attention. Below is a breakdown of the RFRA and how it is affecting the rest of the U.S., as well as Indiana.

Senate Enrolled Act No. 101 breakdown



1 “Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, ‘exercise of religion’ includes any exercise of religion, whether or not compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief.”

What this means

Within the RFRA, the phrase “exercise of religion” is defined as any practice of religion. This practice may or may not necessarily be a central belief of a particular religion.

2 “Sec. 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a governmental entity may not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability.”

What this means

The government cannot restrict any exercise of religion. Exercise of religion can only be restricted if the government has an interest which takes precedence. If this happens, the restriction must be done in the least invasive way possible.

3 “Sec. 10. (a) If a court or other tribunal in which a violation of this chapter is asserted in conformity with section 9 of this chapter determines that ... the court or other tribunal shall allow a defense against any party and shall grant appropriate relief against the governmental entity.”

What this means

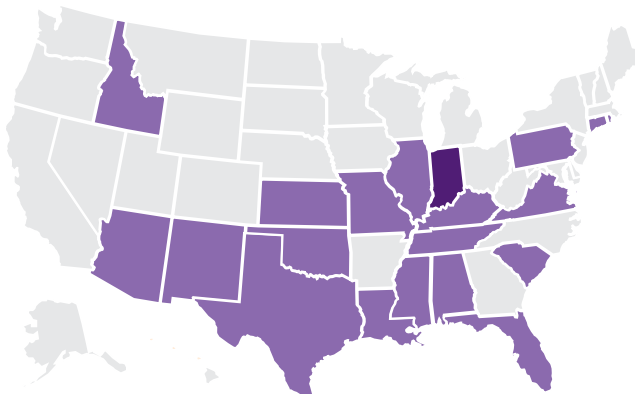
If it is found in court that a person’s exercise of religion is being unfairly restricted according to the RFRA, the court will allow defense of the restricted exercise and will provide compensation.

4 “Sec. 11. This chapter is not intended to, and shall not be construed or interpreted to, create a claim or private cause of action against any private employer by any applicant, employee, or former employee.”

What this means

The RFRA cannot be used as a means in private disputes between businesses. The act can only be applied when one government party is involved.

How Indiana differs from other states



SOURCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATION

Pence was a guest on ABC’s “This Week” with George Stephanopoulos answering whether or not he made “a mistake” signing the law Thursday.

“Absolutely not,” Pence said. “The RFRA was signed into federal law by President Bill Clinton more than 20 years ago.”

Indiana is now one of 20 states with a similar law. Clinton signed a federal version of the law in 1993 that aimed to prevent laws that “substantially burden” a person’s free exercise

of religion.

The difference? Indiana does not mark sexual orientation as a protected class in civil law cases, meaning that the state could potentially not have legal ground to intervene with businesses that choose not to serve LGBT citizens.

When pressed multiple times by Stephanopoulos to answer whether the law could be used to discriminate against LGBT Hoosiers, Pence said that “tolerance is a two-way street” and that backlash has been “baseless.”

Indiana’s enacting of the RFRA has sparked a national debate

SUPPORT OF INDIANA’S RFRA

“We are determined to make it clear that what Indiana has done here is strengthen the foundation and the constitutional First Amendment rights of religious liberty of our people.”

Mike Pence, Governor of Indiana, during an interview on ABC’s “This Week” with George Stephanopoulos on Sunday.

“Opponents of the legislation may make unsupported claims about the extreme results that it would produce, but they have no examples of judicial *decisions* actually reaching such results.”

Letter composed by **Douglas Laycock**, of the University of Virginia School of Law, to the Indiana Statehouse on Feb. 3.

“The proposed Indiana RFRA would provide valuable guidance to Indiana courts, directing them to balance religious freedom against competing interests under the same legal standard that applies throughout most of the land.”

Daniel O. Conkle, IU Maurer School of Law Professor, in a column published on indystar.com Thursday.

OPPOSITION TO INDIANA’S RFRA

“I want to reassure the entire Indiana University community, including our students, faculty, staff and alumni, that each and every one of you is welcome and appreciated for the unique qualities you bring to our community. We are all better as a result of our shared experiences, as different as those experiences in life may have been.”

Michael McRobbie, IU President, in a statement released Sunday night.

“The NCAA national office and our members are deeply committed to providing an inclusive environment for all our events. We are especially concerned about how this legislation could affect our student-athletes and employees.”

Mark Emmert, NCAA President, in a statement released Thursday.

“We are putting the ‘Ford Building Project’ on hold until we fully understand the implications of the freedom restoration act on our employees, both current and future.”

Bill Oesterle, CEO of Angie’s List, on Saturday.

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NOTICE TO IU STUDENTS

IU Campus Bus Service Proposed Service Adjustments–2015-16

The IU Student Transportation Board is soliciting feedback from IU students on proposed IU Campus Bus Service adjustments for 2015-16. Detailed information on the proposed service adjustments can be found at <http://go.iu.edu/tqw>. IU Students can provide feedback by emailing directly to the Student Transportation Board at the following address: iustb@indiana.edu.

Based on the evaluation of the feedback obtained from IU students, final recommendations will be made at the STB public meeting at 8:30 PM on April 20, 2015 in the Charter Room of the IMU. The STB will take a final vote to approve, disapprove, or modify the 2015-16 proposed service adjustments at the public meeting.

1. A Route

No changes to the route pattern or service level.

2. B Route

B Route to provide service to Indiana Avenue, Seventh Street, Woodlawn, and Tenth Street. Stops to be added at Sample Gates, IMU, Collins, Psychology and the Wells Library. Stops to be dropped Jordan Avenue Parking Garage and Wright Quad. Add a bus for most of the day on a Monday through Friday basis, because buses will take more time to operate the expanded route pattern. This returns the B Route to the route pattern it had prior to FY 2012.

3. E Route

No changes to route or service level on weekdays. Drop College Mall service on weekends which will allow 30 minute service to campus, compared to 60 minute service currently. Do not operate E Route during class breaks: Semester Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, and Thanksgiving Break. None of the other IU Campus Bus Service routes operate during class breaks.

4. X Route

No changes to the existing four bus stops; however, utilize the new Woodlawn Corridor when the project is completed. No changes to service level.

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*Must sign lease within 48 hours of initial contact to be eligible for \$150 gift card. All promotions and incentives outlined are based on availability, may be limited in number and length of time offered, and are subject to change without notice. Only signed leases for the 2015-16 school year are eligible.