

Section 1 Header

2023 SESSION

23-0183.0

10/08

HOUSE BILL            *[bill number]*

AN ACT                relative to religious use of land and structures.

SPONSORS:            [sponsors]

COMMITTEE:          [committee]

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ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits zoning ordinances and site plan review regulations from burdening religious land and structures in their use as residential housing.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT                      relative to religious use of land and structures.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 Planning and Zoning; Religious Use of Land and Structures; Housing. Amend RSA 674:76 to  
2 read as follows:

3            674:76 Religious Use of Land and Structures. No zoning ordinance or site plan review  
4 regulation shall prohibit, regulate, or restrict the use of land or structures primarily used for  
5 religious purposes, ***including land or structures used for residential housing provided to***  
6 ***people***; provided, however, that such land or structures may be subject to objective and definite  
7 regulations concerning the height of structures, yard sizes, lot area, setbacks, open space, and  
8 building coverage requirements as long as said requirements are applicable regardless of the  
9 religious or non-religious nature of the use of the property and do not substantially burden religious  
10 exercise. ***For the purposes of this section, "religious exercise" shall include the provision of***  
11 ***residential housing in accordance with one's religious beliefs.***

12            2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.