



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HOUSE APPROVES REP. JIM HILL'S BILL TO PROTECT JUDGES AND MINISTERS FROM BEING FORCED TO VIOLATE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Montgomery – The House of Representatives on Tuesday awarded its approval to the “Freedom of Religion in Marriage Protection Act,” a measure sponsored by State Rep. Jim Hill (R – Odenville) and designed to protect judges and ministers from being compelled to officiate marriage ceremonies that violate their religious beliefs.

The bill is part of the House Republican Caucus’s “Alabama First” legislative agenda.

“With the recent federal court ruling related to the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment and the confusion that resulted, the need to clarify the duties of probate judges and ministers became increasingly apparent,” Hill said. “As a former judge, I would not want to be forced into a situation that violates my fundamental religious and moral beliefs.”

Among the provisions in the legislation are:

- The “Freedom of Religion in Marriage Protection Act” protects ministers and judges from being forced to officiate marriage ceremonies for any reason.
- It further clarifies that ministers and religious organizations are not required to recognize, officiate, or support marriages that violate their religious beliefs.

The legislation, filed as House Bill 56, now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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