

By: Representative Arnold

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 586

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND BOARDS OF  
2 SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZED TO OFFICIATE RITES OF MATRIMONY SHALL NOT  
3 BE REQUIRED TO DO SO IF SUCH ACTION WOULD VIOLATE A SINCERELY HELD  
4 RELIGIOUS BELIEF; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) No Supreme Court Justice or any judge of the  
7 Court of Appeals, a circuit court, chancery court, county court,  
8 justice court, or any member of a board of supervisors shall be  
9 required to solemnize rites of matrimony if such action would  
10 cause the individual to violate a sincerely held religious belief.

11 (2) No adverse action shall be taken against an individual  
12 who refuses to solemnize rites of matrimony in accordance with  
13 subsection (1) of this section.

14 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
15 and after July 1, 2016.

