

Rhode Island Religious Freedom Restoration Act

TITLE 42 State Affairs and Government

CHAPTER 42-80.1 Religious Freedom Restoration Act

SECTION 42-80.1-1

§ 42-80.1-1. Short title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act".

§ 42-80.1-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Governmental authority" means any department, agency, commission, committee, board, council, bureau or authority or any subdivision of state or municipal government.

§ 42-80.1-3. Religious freedom protected.

(a) Except as provided for in subsection (b), a governmental authority may not restrict a person's free exercise of religion.

(b) A governmental authority may restrict a person's free exercise of religion only if:

(1) The restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability, and does not intentionally discriminate against religion, or among religions; and

(2) The governmental authority proves that application of the restriction to the person is essential to further a compelling governmental interest, and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

§ 42-80.1-4. Remedies.

In any civil action alleging a violation of this chapter, the court may:

(1) Afford injunctive and declaratory relief against any governmental authority which commits a proposes to commit a violation of this chapter, and;

(2) Award a prevailing plaintiff damages.