

1-1 By: Hughes, Hall, Sparks S.B. No. 1073
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 3, 2025; February 24, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;
1-4 March 17, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10,
1-5 Nays 0; March 17, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18			X	

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to discrimination against or burdening certain
1-22 constitutional rights of an applicant for or holder of a license to
1-23 practice law in this state.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Government Code, is
1-26 amended by adding Section 81.02401 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 81.02401. CERTAIN PROHIBITED RULES, POLICIES, AND
1-28 PENALTIES; ADMINISTRATIVE OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. (a) A rule or
1-29 policy adopted or a penalty imposed under this chapter may not:

1-30 (1) limit an applicant's ability to obtain a license to
1-31 practice law in this state, or a state bar member's ability to
1-32 maintain or renew the license, based on a sincerely held religious
1-33 belief of the applicant or state bar member; or

1-34 (2) burden an applicant's or state bar member's:

1-35 (A) free exercise of religion, regardless of
1-36 whether the burden is the result of a rule or policy generally
1-37 applicable to all applicants or state bar members;

1-38 (B) freedom of speech or expression protected by
1-39 the United States or Texas Constitution, including speech regarding
1-40 a sincerely held religious belief, a political ideology, or a
1-41 societal view and expressive conduct;

1-42 (C) membership in any religious organization; or

1-43 (D) freedom of association.

1-44 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a state bar rule or
1-45 policy adopted or penalty imposed under this chapter that results
1-46 in a limitation or burden described by Subsection (a) if the rule,
1-47 policy, or penalty:

1-48 (1) is essential to enforcing a compelling
1-49 governmental purpose and narrowly tailored to accomplish that
1-50 purpose; or

1-51 (2) restricts wilful expressions of bias or prejudice
1-52 in connection with an adjudicatory proceeding.

1-53 (c) A person may assert a state bar rule or policy adopted or
1-54 penalty imposed under this chapter violates Subsection (a) as a
1-55 defense in an administrative hearing or as a claim or defense in a
1-56 judicial proceeding under Chapter 37, Civil Practice and Remedies
1-57 Code, except the person may not assert the violation as a defense
1-58 to:

1-59 (1) an allegation of sexual misconduct; or

1-60 (2) prosecution of an offense.

1-61 (d) A person may bring an action for injunctive relief for a

2-7 * * * * *