

1-1 By: Campbell S.B. No. 2986
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2025; April 7, 2025, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
 1-4 April 24, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 24, 2025,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10				
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	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2986 By: Hinojosa of Nueces

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to use by a religious organization of public school or
 1-24 institution of higher education facilities.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Education Code, is
 1-27 amended by adding Section 11.173 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 11.173. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES BY RELIGIOUS
 1-29 ORGANIZATION. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter
 1-30 school may allow a religious organization to use the district's or
 1-31 school's facilities to host religious worship, services, sermons,
 1-32 or assemblies only if:

1-33 (1) the use of the facilities does not interfere with
 1-34 the district's or school's primary educational mission;

1-35 (2) the religious organization provides the fair
 1-36 market rental value or reimbursement for utilities, security, and
 1-37 other costs related to the use of the facilities as determined by
 1-38 the board of trustees of the district or the governing body of the
 1-39 school, unless waived by the board or governing body;

1-40 (3) the religious organization agrees to be held
 1-41 liable for any damages that occur in the organization's use of the
 1-42 facilities; and

1-43 (4) any additional requirements imposed by other law
 1-44 for the use of the facilities are satisfied.

1-45 (b) A state agency, political subdivision, school district,
 1-46 or other governmental entity may not impose a penalty or sanction on
 1-47 or deny funding to a school district or open-enrollment charter
 1-48 school based on the district's or school's decision to allow a
 1-49 religious organization to use the district's or school's facilities
 1-50 in the manner provided by Subsection (a).

1-51 (c) This section may not be construed to require a school
 1-52 district or open-enrollment charter school to allow a religious
 1-53 organization to use the district's or school's facilities for
 1-54 religious purposes if the district or school elects not to do so.

1-55 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
 1-56 amended by adding Section 51.984 to read as follows:

1-57 Sec. 51.984. USE OF INSTITUTION FACILITIES BY RELIGIOUS
 1-58 ORGANIZATION. (a) In this section, "institution of higher
 1-59 education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

1-60 (b) An institution of higher education may allow a religious

2-1 organization to use the institution's facilities to host religious
2-2 worship, services, sermons, or assemblies only if:
2-3 (1) the use of the facilities does not interfere with
2-4 the institution's primary educational mission;
2-5 (2) the religious organization provides the fair
2-6 market rental value or reimbursement for utilities, security, and
2-7 other costs related to the use of the facilities as determined by
2-8 the institution or the institution's governing board, unless waived
2-9 by the institution or the institution's governing board;
2-10 (3) the religious organization agrees to be held
2-11 liable for any damages that occur in the organization's use of the
2-12 facilities; and
2-13 (4) any additional requirements imposed by other law
2-14 for the use of the facilities are satisfied.
2-15 (c) A state agency, political subdivision, or other
2-16 governmental entity may not impose a penalty or sanction on or deny
2-17 funding to an institution of higher education based on the
2-18 institution's decision to allow a religious organization to use the
2-19 institution's facilities in the manner provided by Subsection (b).
2-20 (d) This section may not be construed to require an
2-21 institution of higher education to allow a religious organization
2-22 to use the institution's facilities for religious purposes if the
2-23 institution elects not to do so.
2-24 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act do not affect
2-25 the terms of a contract entered into before the effective date of
2-26 this Act, except that if the contract is renewed, modified, or
2-27 extended on or after the effective date of this Act, the changes in
2-28 law made by this Act apply to the contract beginning on the date of
2-29 renewal, modification, or extension.
2-30 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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