

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PERMITTING MORAL OR RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS BY A
5 CHILD-PLACING AGENCY IN PERFORMING PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING THAT A
6 CHILD-PLACING AGENCY'S MORAL OR RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS ARE NOT A BAR TO LICENSURE OR
7 TO THE AWARD OF A GOVERNMENT GRANT OR CONTRACT OR PARTICIPATION IN A GOVERNMENT
8 PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING THAT A CHILD-PLACING AGENCY'S MORAL OR RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS
9 DO NOT FORM THE BASIS OF ANY CLAIM FOR DAMAGES."

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11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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13 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Objection to placement activities on basis of religious or moral**
14 **convictions or policies -- effect.** (1) A child-placing agency is not required to participate in placement activities
15 that would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.

16 (2) The department may not refuse to issue or renew or cancel an agency's license because of the
17 agency's objection to participating in placement activities that would violate the agency's written religious or moral
18 convictions or policies.

19 (3) A state or local government entity may not deny a private child-placing agency any grant, contract,
20 or participation in a government program because of the agency's objection to participating in placement activities
21 that would violate the agency's written religious moral convictions or policies.

22 (4) An agency's refusal to participate in placement activities that would violate the agency's written
23 religious or moral convictions or policies may not form the basis of any claim for damages.

24 (5) As used in this section, "participate" includes performing, assisting with, counseling regarding,
25 recommending, consenting to, or referring persons to placement activities.

26
27 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
28 integral part of Title 52, chapter 8, part 1, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 8, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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