



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB2495

Introduced 10/12/2011, by Sen. Kyle McCarter

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

750 ILCS 75/65 new

Amends the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act. Provides that a child welfare agency that is religiously based or owned by, operated by, or affiliated with a bona fide religious organization may decline an adoption or foster family home application, including any related licensure and placement, from a party to a civil union if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs and, if an agency declines an application, it must provide the applicant with information on how to contact the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain information concerning other regional licensed child welfare agencies. Effective immediately.

LRB097 13464 AJ0 58173 b

1 AN ACT concerning civil law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and  
5 Civil Union Act is amended by adding Section 65 as follows:

6 (750 ILCS 75/65 new)

7 Sec. 65. Religious child welfare agencies. A child welfare  
8 agency that is religiously based or owned by, operated by, or  
9 affiliated with a bona fide religious organization may decline  
10 an adoption or foster family home application, including any  
11 related licensure and placement, from a party to a civil union  
12 if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation  
13 of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs. If an  
14 agency declines an application pursuant to this Section, then  
15 it must provide the applicant with information on how to  
16 contact the Department of Children and Family Services to  
17 obtain information concerning other regional licensed child  
18 welfare agencies.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.