

**ORIGINAL FINAL DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR
PRINTING OF THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE**

2011-2012 #78

Colorado Religious Freedom Amendment

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2012

10:00 A.M.
S. WARD

**ELECTIONS/LICENSING
SECRETARY OF STATE**

BALLOT TITLE:

AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION EXPRESSING THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BURDEN A PERSON'S OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION'S FREEDOM OF RELIGION

TEXT:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add section 32 to article II as follows:

- (1) GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BURDEN A PERSON'S OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION'S FREEDOM OF RELIGION.
- (2) A PERSON'S OR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION'S RIGHT TO ACT OR REFUSAL TO ACT IN A MANNER MOTIVATED BY A SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEF MAY NOT BE BURDENED UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT PROVES IT HAS A COMPELLING GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN INFRINGING UPON THE SPECIFIC ACT OR REFUSAL TO ACT AND HAS USED THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE MEANS TO FURTHER THAT INTEREST.
- (3) A BURDEN INCLUDES INDIRECT BURDENS SUCH AS WITHHOLDING OF ONE OR MORE BENEFITS, ASSESSING ONE OR MORE PENALTIES, EXCLUSION FROM ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND/OR EXCLUSION FROM ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENT FACILITIES.

SECTION 2. Effective date. This section shall take effect upon proclamation of the vote by the governor.