



Communications Department

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Contact: Fritz Gisler
Director of Communications
870-932-1052
fgisler@jonesboro.org

Mayor Perrin Releases Statement on Arkansas House Bill 1228

Jonesboro, AR—Mayor Harold Perrin today released a statement regarding Arkansas House Bill 1228. The statement follows:

Currently Arkansas House Bill 1228, “The Religious Freedom Restoration Act” is undergoing the legislative process at the State Capitol.

Many groups and individuals have stated their opposition to this bill, for many reasons. Governor Hutchinson has tasked the Legislature with making the bill mirror the Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act that was passed in 1993.

I, too, have concerns regarding this bill. There has been a significant amount of discussion about concern that this bill could have an adverse impact on our economic development in Arkansas, an issue I am deeply involved in. There have been concerns stated that this bill could lead to discrimination based on a person’s religious views.

I have always held that the Constitution’s First Amendment protection of freedom of religion is a cornerstone of our country. No person should fear discrimination or bias based on their religious views, especially in the public sector.

I am a strong supporter of the Governor’s economic development initiatives for this state, and our area. The growth we are seeing in our city is really gaining momentum. We need to look closely at anything that may affect that.

I support our Governor’s work with the Legislature that could make this bill one that will mirror Federal legislation, and serve all the residents of Arkansas.

Mayor Harold Perrin

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