

REFERENCE TITLE: religious institutions; charitable services

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1546

Introduced by
Senator Farnsworth

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 9-500.54; RELATING TO MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 9, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 9-500.54, to read:

4 9-500.54. Municipalities; religious institutions; charitable
5 organizations; charitable foods, goods or
6 services; permits; rezoning; prohibitions;
7 definitions

8 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A MUNICIPALITY MAY NOT ENACT ANY
9 LAW, ORDINANCE OR OTHER REGULATION THAT REQUIRES A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION
10 OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION TO REZONE PROPERTY THAT IS OWNED BY THE
11 RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR OBTAIN ANY TYPE OF
12 PERMIT FOR THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION TO
13 DISTRIBUTE CHARITABLE FOODS, GOODS OR SERVICES ON THE PROPERTY THAT IS
14 OWNED BY THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

15 B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

16 1. "CHARITABLE FOODS, GOODS OR SERVICES" MEANS FOOD, GOODS OR
17 SERVICES THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED FREE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

18 2. "CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION" MEANS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION THAT
19 IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAXATION UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) OF THE
20 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

21 3. "RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION" MEANS AN INSTITUTION THAT IS OWNED,
22 CONTROLLED, OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY A CHURCH, RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION OR
23 RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION THAT IS LAWFULLY OPERATING AS A NONPROFIT RELIGIOUS
24 CORPORATION.