



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1214

Introduced by: **Representative Jordan**

1 **An Act to provide immunity for security personnel of a religious organization.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 20-9:**

4 Terms used in section 2 of this Act mean:

5 (1) "Religious organization," a body or community of persons united as individuals or
6 as an entity, under one form of government, by profession of the same faith and
7 the observance of the same rituals or ceremonies in a bona fide church, synagogue,
8 or house of worship;

9 (2) "Security personnel," a person who provides safety, security, or protection for a
10 religious organization, as authorized by the religious organization, to benefit
11 persons in attendance at a meeting or other gathering held at, or sponsored by,
12 the religious organization; and

13 (3) "Volunteer," a person who provides services without any express or implied
14 promise of remuneration.

15 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 20-9:**

16 No action may lie or be maintained for civil damages against any volunteer security
17 personnel of a religious organization, for providing safety, security, or protection services
18 for the religious organization, or against the religious organization for which the volunteer
19 security personnel provided safety, security, or protection services.

20 The immunity provided by this section applies to and includes safety, security, or
21 protection provided using deadly force, as defined in § 22-18-3.1, or force other than
22 deadly force.

23 The immunity provided by this section does not apply to or include any act or
24 omission that arises out of unreasonable, reckless, grossly negligent, or wanton actions
25 or conduct of the volunteer security personnel.