



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

HOUSE BILL 750

**CRIMINAL LAW - INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO OR EGRESS FROM A RELIGIOUS
FACILITY - PROHIBITION**

FAVORABLE

Agudath Israel of Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic regional office of Agudath Israel of America, a renowned national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country, speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland and on the behalf of the many (+60) Orthodox synagogues within our state, as well as the many other religious facilities utilized by our faith community. We stand today in support of House Bill 750.

HB 750 would prohibit a person or persons from impeding others from entering or exiting a religious facility, including places of worship, cemeteries, and religious educational facilities. The need to ensure that people of faith are able to worship without fear and without harassment is clear. In recent years, members of the Jewish faith have seen politically-motivated and antisemitic protesters target synagogues, barring people from being able to safely enter and exit as well as creating an atmosphere of intimidation and fear. While freedom of speech allows for peaceful protests regardless of ideological content, there is no right to impede others from utilizing places of worship. The bill also ensures that religious facilities retain a level of discretion in allowing individuals to enter the premises.

The primacy of the right to religious liberty, including the ability to congregate and worship in sanctuaries and religious facilities, is well known. This bill would help protect worshippers and congregants from harassment. We respectfully ask that you issue a favorable report on House Bill 750.

Thank you.