For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS THE CHURCH PROTECTION ACT OF
2013; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO BE KNOWN AS THE CHURCH PROTECTION ACT
OF 2013; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-73-306(16), concerning the prohibition
against carrying a concealed handgun in a church or other place of worship,
is amended to read as follows:
(16)(A) Any church or other place of worship.
(B) However, this subchapter does not preclude a church or other
place of worship from determining who may carry a concealed handgun into the
church or other place of worship;

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that personal security is
increasingly important; that the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the
United States ensures a person’s right to bear arms; and that this act is
immediately necessary because a person should be allowed to carry a firearm in a church that permits the carrying of a firearm for personal security. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/B. King

APPROVED: 02/11/2013