

HOUSE BILL NO. 5316

November 09, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Steckloff and Arbit and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1961 PA 236, entitled
"Revised judicature act of 1961,"
by amending section 2156 (MCL 600.2156).

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 2156. ~~(1) No minister of the gospel, or priest of any~~
2 ~~denomination whatsoever, or duly accredited Christian Science~~
3 ~~practitioner, A cleric shall be allowed to not disclose and must~~
4 **not be allowed to disclose** any confessions made to ~~him~~ **the cleric**
5 in ~~his~~ **the cleric's** professional ~~character,~~ **capacity as a spiritual**

1 **advisor** in the course of discipline enjoined by the rules or
2 practice of such ~~denomination~~ **the religious organization.**

3 (2) **This section does not apply to a confession of past**
4 **physical violence against a third person, or the threat of physical**
5 **violence against a reasonably identifiable third person if the**
6 **individual making the threat has the apparent intent and ability to**
7 **carry out the threat in the foreseeable future.**

8 (3) **As used in this section, "cleric" means a minister,**
9 **priest, rabbi, accredited Christian Science practitioner, or other**
10 **similar functionary of a religious organization, or an individual**
11 **reasonably believed to be such a functionary by the individual**
12 **consulting the cleric.**