



Amendment Floor Report for HB 303- Monday, May 15, 2017

Author	Analysis	Recommendation
Krause P.2 851978	This amendment adds a new subsection to the Government Code requiring the Supreme Court of Texas to not let sincerely held religious beliefs affect an individual's eligibility to sit for examination as part of their licensure through the state bar. The standards set by the Court for examination are concerned with the individual's academic performance and training in addition to their character. Existing state and federal statutes prohibit discrimination based on religion, thereby making this inclusion unnecessary and potentially harmful to the professional credibility of lawyers within the state.	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Swanson P.3 851971	Presently, a person is eligible to take the bar examination when they have completed the prescribed study in an approved law school. This amendment simply clarifies that an individual is also eligible to take the bar examination if the person is licensed to practice law in another state and satisfies all other requirements for a license to practice law in this state.	<u>Favorable</u>
Krause P.4-5 851977	This amendment allows for an individual to claim a violation of certain religious liberties as an affirmative defense during an administrative hearing regarding a state bar rule or a policy or penalty put on by the board of directors. The violations would include freedom of speech of a religious belief, affiliation with a religious organization or free exercise of religion. Furthermore, this would allow the person to file an injunction should these violations occur. Any discrimination based on religious belief is unconstitutional, leaving this amendment rather unnecessary.	<u>Unfavorable</u>

OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman