

By: Berman

H.B. No. 999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a court of this state to uphold and apply
3 certain laws, including the doctrine requiring courts to refrain
4 from involvement in religious doctrinal interpretation or
5 application.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Section 21.001, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

9 (d) A court shall uphold and apply the Constitution of the
10 United States, the constitution of this state, federal laws, and
11 the laws of this state, including the doctrine that is derived from
12 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and known as
13 the church autonomy doctrine, which in part requires courts to
14 refrain from involvement in religious doctrinal interpretation or
15 application.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.