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Controversial Bill Gains Brownback's Signature

Governor Sam Brownback has signed a law aimed at keeping the state's courts or government agencies from basing decisions on Islamic or other foreign legal codes.

A spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations says a court challenge is likely. Brownback signed the measure Monday. The Senate was notified Friday. The law takes effect in July.

Muslim groups urged him to veto the measure, arguing it promotes religious discrimination. Supporters say it simply restates American values.

Supporters have worried about Shariah law being applied in Kansas. But they point out that the bill doesn't specifically mention codes within the Islamic legal system.

Instead, it says courts or other tribunals can't base rulings on any foreign law or legal system that would not grant rights guaranteed by state and U.S. constitutions.

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