

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1723

By: Williamson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; prohibiting discrimination in use of public facilities based on religion; providing civil remedy for discrimination; providing for award of attorney fees; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3119 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It shall be unlawful for any public facility which allows the use of a meeting room, auditorium or similar space in the public facility for the conduct of meetings by members of the public to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any person who wishes to conduct a meeting within the public facility on the basis of the religious content of the speech at such meetings. A public facility which allows the use of a meeting room, auditorium or similar space in the public facility for meetings shall allow such use without regard to the religious content of speech at such meetings and shall treat all applicants for use equally. The public facility may place the following restrictions on use as follows:

1. If a fee is normally charged for the use of the facility, the fee shall be the same for all members of the public for such use;

2. The facility may not be used for meetings of members of the public if the facility is required for public purposes during the applicable time period; and

3. The same opportunity for use of the facility shall be given to all persons who request its use on a first-come, first-served basis.

B. Any person injured as a result of a violation of this section may bring an action for such injury. A prevailing party in such an action shall be awarded court costs, interest and reasonable attorney fees.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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