

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT  
TO  
2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1640 By: Halligan of the Senate  
3 and  
4 Williams of the House  
5  
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8 ( state government - creating Certified Retirement  
9 Communities Program Act - defining term - issue  
10 certification - authorizing pilot project -  
11 codification - effective date -  
12 emergency )  
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15 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Denney

16 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the stricken title, enacting clause and  
17 entire bill and insert  
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19 "An Act relating to state government; creating the  
20 Certified Retirement Communities Program Act;  
21 providing for short title; directing the Oklahoma  
22 Department of Commerce to establish certain program;  
23 stating purposes of the Oklahoma Certified  
24 Retirement Communities Program; encouraging the  
Oklahoma Department of Commerce to collaborate with  
the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in the  
development of certain program; requiring the  
Oklahoma Department of Commerce to promulgate  
certain rules; specifying communities eligible for

1 the program; requiring communities to meet certain  
2 specified requirements; defining term; requiring the  
3 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to determine which  
4 communities qualify for certification; requiring the  
5 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to develop certain  
6 criteria; requiring the Oklahoma Department of  
7 Commerce to issue certain certification upon  
8 qualification; providing expiration date of  
9 certification; providing procedures for  
10 recertification; authorizing pilot project;  
11 providing for codification; providing an effective  
12 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.20 of Title 74, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Certified  
18 Retirement Communities Program Act".

19 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.21 of Title 74, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall establish an  
23 Oklahoma Certified Retirement Communities Program to recognize  
24 communities in the state that have made themselves attractive  
destinations for retirees.

B. The purposes of the Program shall be to:

1. Encourage retirees to establish a residence in Oklahoma;

1           2. Help communities promote and market themselves as retirement  
2 destinations for retirees;

3           3. Assist the economic development of rural communities by  
4 encouraging retirees to live, work, and volunteer in these  
5 communities; and

6           4. Encourage tourism in Oklahoma by enhancing the marketing of  
7 the state to retirees everywhere.

8           C. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is encouraged to  
9 collaborate with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in the  
10 development of an outreach program to assist communities seeking  
11 certification.

12           D. The Department shall promulgate rules to implement the  
13 provisions of this act.

14           SECTION 3.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.22 of Title 74, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17           A. Any community in this state is eligible to be named a  
18 certified retirement community. In an application to the Oklahoma  
19 Department of Commerce for recognition as a certified retirement  
20 community, the applicant shall clearly articulate how the applicant  
21 defines community for purposes of seeking certification.

22           B. Each community seeking certification shall meet the  
23 following requirements:

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1           1. The community shall submit an application to the Oklahoma  
2 Department of Commerce containing basic demographic and statistical  
3 information, including crime statistics, tax-related information,  
4 recreational opportunities, housing prices and availability, health  
5 care and emergency medical service availability and other factors  
6 deemed relevant by the Department;

7           2. The community shall demonstrate the support and active  
8 involvement of the local governing body, churches, clubs,  
9 businesses, media outlets or other entities with an interest in the  
10 future of the community;

11           3. The community shall submit with the application a plan  
12 describing the community's long-term care facility and service  
13 capabilities and the community's strategy for marketing the  
14 community to retirees. The plan shall include a target market, a  
15 list of competing communities, an analysis of the community's  
16 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and dangers, and the steps the  
17 community will employ to achieve the goals of the plan; and

18           4. The applicant community shall certify the availability of at  
19 least Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be expended by the  
20 community to implement the Certified Retirement Communities Program.

21           C. For purposes of this act, "community" means a city, town or  
22 county. A community can be coterminous with a political subdivision  
23 of the state or with a particular geographic boundary.

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1           SECTION 4.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.23 of Title 74, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall accept and review  
5 applications from communities seeking to become a certified  
6 retirement community. The Department shall determine which  
7 communities qualify for certification.

8           B. In determining which communities qualify, the Department  
9 shall develop a set of criteria for evaluating and scoring the  
10 applicants and comparing each applicant against the other  
11 applicants. The criteria developed by the Department shall include:

12           1. The competitiveness of the tax burden on residents in the  
13 community;

14           2. Housing availability and cost;

15           3. Climatic factors;

16           4. Personal and community safety;

17           5. Work, volunteer and community service opportunities;

18           6. Health care and emergency medical services available to  
19 residents of the community;

20           7. Public transportation and transportation infrastructure;

21           8. Educational quality and opportunities;

22           9. Recreational and leisure opportunities;

23           10. The availability of cultural and performing arts, sporting  
24 events, festivals and other activities; and

1 11. The availability of services and facilities necessary to  
2 assist retirees as they age.

3 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.24 of Title 74, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. If the Oklahoma Department of Commerce determines that a  
7 community qualifies for certification, the Department shall issue to  
8 the community a certificate recognizing the status of the community  
9 as an attractive destination for retirees.

10 B. 1. A community's certification expires on the fifth  
11 anniversary of the date of initial certification.

12 2. To be recertified, a community shall submit a new  
13 application, as provided in Section 3 of this act. Such application  
14 shall include a report of the success or failure of the community's  
15 past efforts to market itself to retirees.

16 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5040.25 of Title 74, unless  
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is authorized to implement  
20 the Oklahoma Certified Retirement Communities Program through a  
21 pilot project. During this pilot implementation, the community  
22 selection criteria and scoring methodology shall be defined,  
23 applications shall be developed, educational sessions shall be  
24 conducted and marketing strategies shall be developed. The City of

1 Stillwater, Oklahoma, shall serve as the pilot community pursuant to  
2 this section. In recognition of the assistance the City of  
3 Stillwater shall provide in this pilot project, the application fee  
4 charged by the Department for the city's initial application shall  
5 be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). The Department and the City of  
6 Stillwater shall jointly work to organize the community and prepare  
7 its application.

8 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2010.

9 SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval."

13 Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of April, 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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