

SB 1640

1 THE STATE SENATE
2 Tuesday, February 16, 2010

3 Senate Bill No. 1640
4 As Amended

5 SENATE BILL NO. 1640 - By: Halligan of the Senate and Williams of
6 the House.

7 [state government - creating Certified Retirement
8 Communities Program Act - defining term - issue
9 certification - authorizing pilot project - codification -
10 effective date -
11 emergency]

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

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

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

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

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

25 B. The purposes of the Program shall be to:

- 26 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:

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.

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;

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

3 11. The availability of services and facilities necessary to
4 assist retirees as they age.

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

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

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

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

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

21 The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is authorized to implement
22 the Oklahoma Certified Retirement Communities Program through a
23 pilot project. During this pilot implementation, the community

1 selection criteria and scoring methodology shall be defined,
2 applications shall be developed, educational sessions shall be
3 conducted and marketing strategies shall be developed. The City of
4 Stillwater, Oklahoma, shall serve as the pilot community pursuant to
5 this section. In recognition of the assistance the City of
6 Stillwater shall provide in this pilot project, the application fee
7 charged by the Department for the city's initial application shall
8 be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). The Department and the City of
9 Stillwater shall jointly work to organize the community and prepare
10 its application.

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

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

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-10-10 - DO
17 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.