

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE BILL 1640

By: Halligan

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to state government; creating the
8 Certified Retirement Communities Program Act;
9 providing for short title; directing the Oklahoma
10 Department of Commerce to establish certain program;
11 stating purposes of the Oklahoma Certified Retirement
12 Communities Program; encouraging the Oklahoma
13 Department of Commerce to collaborate with the
14 Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in the
15 development of certain program; requiring the
16 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to promulgate certain
17 rules; specifying communities eligible for the
18 program; requiring communities to meet certain
19 specified requirements; defining term; requiring the
20 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to determine which
21 communities qualify for certification; requiring the
22 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to develop certain
23 criteria; requiring the Oklahoma Department of
24 Commerce to issue certain certification upon
qualification; providing expiration date of
certification; providing procedures for
recertification; authorizing pilot project; providing
for codification; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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 5040.20 of Title 74, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

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

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

11 1. Encourage retirees to establish a residence in Oklahoma;

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

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

17 4. Encourage tourism in Oklahoma by enhancing the marketing of
18 the state to retirees everywhere.

19 C. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is encouraged to
20 collaborate with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in the
21 development of an outreach program to assist communities seeking
22 certification.

23 D. The Department shall promulgate rules to implement the
24 provisions of this act.

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

4 A. Any community in this state is eligible to be named a
5 certified retirement community. In an application to the Oklahoma
6 Department of Commerce for recognition as a certified retirement
7 community, the applicant shall clearly articulate how the applicant
8 defines community for purposes of seeking certification.

9 B. Each community seeking certification shall meet the
10 following requirements:

11 1. The community shall submit an application to the Oklahoma
12 Department of Commerce containing basic demographic and statistical
13 information, including crime statistics, tax-related information,
14 recreational opportunities, housing prices and availability, health
15 care and emergency medical service availability and other factors
16 deemed relevant by the Department;

17 2. The community shall demonstrate the support and active
18 involvement of the local governing body, churches, clubs,
19 businesses, media outlets or other entities with an interest in the
20 future of the community;

21 3. The community shall submit with the application a plan
22 describing the community's long-term care facility and service
23 capabilities and the community's strategy for marketing the
24 community to retirees. The plan shall include a target market, a

1 list of competing communities, an analysis of the community's
2 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and dangers, and the steps the
3 community will employ to achieve the goals of the plan; and

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

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

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

13 A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall accept and review
14 applications from communities seeking to become a certified
15 retirement community. The Department shall determine which
16 communities qualify for certification.

17 B. In determining which communities qualify, the Department
18 shall develop a set of criteria for evaluating and scoring the
19 applicants and comparing each applicant against the other
20 applicants. The criteria developed by the Department shall include:

- 21 1. The competitiveness of the tax burden on residents in the
22 community;
- 23 2. Housing availability and cost;
- 24 3. Climatic factors;

- 1 4. Personal and community safety;
- 2 5. Work, volunteer and community service opportunities;
- 3 6. Health care and emergency medical services available to
- 4 residents of the community;
- 5 7. Public transportation and transportation infrastructure;
- 6 8. Educational quality and opportunities;
- 7 9. Recreational and leisure opportunities;
- 8 10. The availability of cultural and performing arts, sporting
- 9 events, festivals and other activities; and
- 10 11. The availability of services and facilities necessary to
- 11 assist retirees as they age.

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

15 A. If the Oklahoma Department of Commerce determines that a
16 community qualifies for certification, the Department shall issue to
17 the community a certificate recognizing the status of the community
18 as an attractive destination for retirees.

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

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

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

4 The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is authorized to implement
5 the Oklahoma Certified Retirement Communities Program through a
6 pilot project. During this pilot implementation, the community
7 selection criteria and scoring methodology shall be defined,
8 applications shall be developed, educational sessions shall be
9 conducted and marketing strategies shall be developed. The City of
10 Stillwater, Oklahoma, shall serve as the pilot community pursuant to
11 this section. In recognition of the assistance the City of
12 Stillwater shall provide in this pilot project, the application fee
13 charged by the Department for the city's initial application shall
14 be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). The Department and the City of
15 Stillwater shall jointly work to organize the community and prepare
16 its application.

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

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

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