

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE BILL 648

By: Sykes

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to state government; creating the
8 Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program Act;
9 stating purpose; defining terms; requiring the
10 Oklahoma Department of Commerce to establish and
11 maintain a program to encourage retirees to live in
12 certain certified retirement cities; requiring the
13 Department to develop a scoring system for
14 qualification as an Oklahoma certified retirement
15 city; providing certain criteria for scoring system;
16 authorizing the Department to prescribe certain
17 rules; providing requirements for eligibility to
18 become an Oklahoma certified retirement city;
19 providing for certification of retirement cities;
20 authorizing certain assistance from the Department
21 upon certification; authorizing certain contracts for
22 certain services; providing for expiration of
23 certification; providing for recertification;
24 creating the Oklahoma Certified Retirement City
Program Revolving Fund; providing for appropriation,
budgeting, expenditure and purpose of fund; providing
for certain payments from fund; 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 5067.1 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 "Oklahoma
2 Certified Retirement City Program Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.2 of Title 74, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The purpose and intent of this act is to:

7 1. Promote Oklahoma as a retirement destination to retirees and
8 potential retirees both in and outside Oklahoma;

9 2. Assist Oklahoma cities in their efforts to market themselves
10 as desirable retirement locations and to develop cities that
11 retirees would find attractive for a retirement lifestyle;

12 3. Assist in the development of retirement cities and life-care
13 cities for economic development purposes and as a means of providing
14 a potential workforce and enriching Oklahoma cities; and

15 4. Encourage tourism to Oklahoma of individuals who are
16 evaluating a desirable retirement location.

17 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.3 of Title 74, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 As used in the Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program Act:

21 1. "Department" means the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; and

22 2. "Program" means the Oklahoma Certified Retirement City
23 Program.

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1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.4 of Title 74, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall establish and
5 maintain an Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program in which
6 retirees and potential retirees are encouraged to make their homes
7 in Oklahoma cities that have met the criteria for certification by
8 the Department as an Oklahoma certified retirement city.

9 B. The Department shall develop and use a scoring system to
10 determine whether an applicant will qualify as an Oklahoma certified
11 retirement city. In addition to the requirements of Section 5 of
12 this act, the Department shall consider as part of the scoring
13 system the applicant city in relation to the following criteria:

- 14 1. Local tax burden;
- 15 2. Housing opportunities and cost;
- 16 3. Weather;
- 17 4. Personal safety;
- 18 5. Health care services and other services along the continuum
19 of care, including home-based and community-based services, housing
20 for the elderly, assisted living, personal care, hospitals and
21 nursing care facilities;
- 22 6. Roads or buses;
- 23 7. Educational opportunities;
- 24 8. Leisure activity;

- 1 9. Recreational opportunities and facilities;
- 2 10. Festivals, events and designations; and
- 3 11. Other services and facilities that are necessary to enable
- 4 persons to age in the city and in the least restrictive environment,
- 5 as may be suggested by the Aging Services Division of the Department
- 6 of Human Services or other appropriate entity.

7 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.5 of Title 74, unless there
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 To be eligible to be an Oklahoma certified retirement city, a
11 city, through a board or panel that serves as the city's official
12 program sponsor, shall:

- 13 1. Complete a retiree desirability assessment, as developed by
- 14 the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, to include facts regarding
- 15 crime statistics, tax burden information, recreational
- 16 opportunities, housing availability, and other appropriate factors,
- 17 including criteria listed in subsection B of Section 4 of this act;
- 18 2. Work to gain the support of churches, clubs, businesses,
- 19 media, and other entities, as necessary for the success of the
- 20 program in the city;
- 21 3. Identify emergency medical services and a hospital within
- 22 five (5) miles of the city limits; and
- 23 4. Submit to the department:
- 24

- 1 a. an application fee in an amount equal to the greater
2 of:
3 (1) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or
4 (2) twenty-five cents (\$0.25) multiplied by the
5 population of the city, as determined by the most
6 recent census,
- 7 b. a marketing plan detailing the mission as applied to
8 the city, the target market, the competition, an
9 analysis of the city's strengths, weaknesses,
10 opportunities and dangers, and the strategies the city
11 will employ to attain the goals of the program, and
- 12 c. a long-term plan outlining the steps the city will
13 undertake to maintain its desirability as a
14 destination for retirees, including an outline of
15 plans to correct any facility and service deficiencies
16 identified in the retiree desirability assessment
17 required by paragraph 1 of this section.

18 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.6 of Title 74, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. If the Oklahoma Department of Commerce finds that a city
22 successfully meets the requirements of an Oklahoma certified
23 retirement city, not later than ninety (90) days after the
24 application is submitted, the Department shall certify the city as

1 an Oklahoma certified retirement city and provide the following
2 assistance to the city:

3 1. Assistance in the training of local staff and volunteers;

4 2. Ongoing oversight and guidance in marketing, plus updates on
5 retirement trends;

6 3. Inclusion in the state's national advertising and public
7 relations campaigns and travel show promotions, including a
8 prominent feature on the Department's Internet website, to be
9 coordinated with the Internet websites of other agencies, as
10 appropriate;

11 4. Eligibility for state financial assistance for brochures,
12 support material, and advertising; and

13 5. An evaluation and progress assessment on maintaining and
14 improving the city's desirability as a home for retirees.

15 B. A city certified as an Oklahoma certified retirement city
16 may display a sign designating the city as an "Oklahoma Certified
17 Retirement City".

18 C. The Department may contract with a local or regional
19 nonprofit organization to provide assistance to an Oklahoma
20 certified retirement city as provided in this section.

21 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.7 of Title 74, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 A city's certification as an Oklahoma certified retirement city
2 shall expire five (5) years from the date the initial certification
3 is issued. To be considered for recertification by the Oklahoma
4 Department of Commerce, an applicant city must:

5 1. Complete and submit a new application in accordance with the
6 requirements of Section 5 of this act; and

7 2. Submit data demonstrating the success or failure of the
8 city's efforts to market and promote itself as a desirable location
9 for retirees and potential retirees.

10 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5067.8 of Title 74, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
14 for the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to be designated the
15 "Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program Revolving Fund". The
16 fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year
17 limitations, and shall consist of the fees collected under the
18 Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program Act. All monies accruing
19 to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be
20 budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for
21 administrative and personnel costs of the Department associated with
22 administering the Oklahoma Certified Retirement City Program Act.
23 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
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1 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
2 Office of State Finance for approval and payment.

3 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.
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