

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

4                   HOUSE BILL 1007

                  By: Brumbaugh

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7                   AS INTRODUCED

8                   An Act relating to marriage; prohibiting requirement  
9                   of religious official to solemnize a marriage that  
10                  violates their conscience or religious beliefs;  
11                  providing for civil immunity; defining terms;  
12                  providing for codification; and providing an  
13                  effective date.

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

15                  SECTION 1.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
16                  in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7.1 of Title 43, unless there is  
17                  created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18                  A. No regularly licensed, ordained or authorized official of  
19                  any religious organization shall be required to solemnize or  
20                  recognize any marriage that violates the official's conscience or  
21                  religious beliefs. A regularly licensed, ordained or authorized  
22                  official of any religious organization shall be immune from any  
23                  civil claim or cause of action based on a refusal to solemnize or  
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1 recognize any marriage that violates the official's conscience or  
2 religious beliefs.

3 B. As used in this section:

4 1. "Recognize" means to provide religious-based services that:

- 5 a. are delivered by a religious organization or by an  
6 individual who is managed, supervised or directed by a  
7 religious organization, and  
8 b. are designed for married couples or couples engaged to  
9 marry and are directly related to solemnizing,  
10 celebrating, strengthening or promoting a marriage,  
11 such as religious counseling programs, courses,  
12 retreats and workshops; and

13 2. "Religious organization" means any church, seminary,  
14 synagogue, temple, mosque, religious order, religious corporation,  
15 association or society, whose identity is distinctive in terms of  
16 common religious creed, beliefs, doctrines, practices or rituals of  
17 any faith or denomination, including any organization qualifying as  
18 a church or religious organization under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(d)  
19 of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND CIVIL PROCEDURE,  
23 dated 02/05/2015 - DO PASS.  
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