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April 7, 2015

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1007

By: Brumbaugh, Bennett,
McCullough, Ritze and
Cleveland of the House

and

Newberry and Brecheen of
the Senate

An Act relating to marriage; prohibiting requirement of religious official to solemnize a marriage that violates their conscience or religious beliefs; providing for civil immunity; defining terms; 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 7.1 of Title 43, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
22 April 7, 2015 - DO PASS
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