

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 1007

By: Brumbaugh

AS INTRODUCED

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 recognize any marriage that violates the official's conscience or religious beliefs.

1 B. As used in this section:

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

3 a. are delivered by a religious organization or by an
4 individual who is managed, supervised or directed by a
5 religious organization, and

6 b. are designed for married couples or couples engaged to
7 marry and are directly related to solemnizing,
8 celebrating, strengthening or promoting a marriage,
9 such as religious counseling programs, courses,
10 retreats and workshops; and

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

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

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