

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 157

By: Schulz

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the State Fire Marshal; amending  
8 Section 1, Chapter 378, O.S.L. 2016 (74 O.S. Supp.  
9 2016, Section 317.2), which relates to accommodation  
of overnight visitors in churches; modifying certain  
requirements; and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 378, O.S.L.  
14 2016 (74 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 317.2), is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 Section 317.2. A. The Oklahoma Uniform Building Code or any  
17 building code adopted by any political subdivision of this state, or  
18 any rules or regulations promulgated thereto, may permit the  
19 authority having jurisdiction to allow a church that is occupancy-  
20 rated an A3 building pursuant to any codes adopted by the Oklahoma  
21 Uniform Building Code Commission to utilize its building space for  
22 temporary overnight visitors for the purpose of religious retreats,  
23 ministry programs, overnight or lock-in events, emergency or  
24 catastrophic occurrences, to shelter transient persons or to

1 accommodate displaced persons due to hardship or inclement weather.  
2 Such building use shall not constitute a change in code occupancy  
3 rating, purposes or activities. Provided, any temporary overnight  
4 visitor space utilized by a church within its existing buildings as  
5 authorized by this section shall be authorized only for a limited  
6 duration, unless the Governor has declared a state of emergency or  
7 exigent circumstances exist. The church acting pursuant to the  
8 provisions of this section shall not charge for its accommodations  
9 nor be deemed a bed and breakfast, hotel or motel for any code  
10 occupancy rating purposes.

11 B. Churches which temporarily accommodate overnight visitors as  
12 provided in this section shall have one of the following:

13 1. An automatic sprinkler system in the area of overnight  
14 accommodations that is monitored by a third party; or

15 2. A hard-wired stand-alone fire and smoke alarm in the area of  
16 overnight accommodations in addition to an exit door ~~opening~~  
17 ~~directly to a public way, exit court or yard area.~~ The exit door  
18 may either be a separate door that opens directly into a public way  
19 or a single point of ingress/egress for the area. Fire evacuation  
20 route maps may be posted in the overnight accommodation area.

21 C. Nothing in the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code or any code  
22 adopted by any political subdivision of this state, or any rules or  
23 regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, shall be construed to  
24 cause a church to be in violation of the Oklahoma Uniform Building

1 Code or any building code adopted by a political subdivision of this  
2 state for the sole reason the church offers temporary overnight  
3 visitor services within the authority of this section.

4 D. As used in this section:

5 1. "Church" means a facility that is owned by a religious  
6 organization and that is used primarily for religious services;

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

14 3. "Temporary" means ~~no more than seven (7) consecutive days,~~  
15 accumulating to no more than ~~forty (40)~~ seventy-five (75) days in a  
16 calendar year.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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