

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

SENATE BILL 312

By: Simpson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to building codes; amending Section 1, Chapter 378, O.S.L. 2016 (74 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 317.2), which relates to church accommodations; adding certain requirement for certain purpose; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

18 3. A hard-wired stand-alone fire and smoke alarm or battery
19 operated fire and smoke alarm in the area of overnight
20 accommodations in addition to illuminated interior exits signs, a
21 means of egress from the interior overnight accommodations area to
22 the exterior of the building which is maintained and free from
23 obstructions or impediments for full and instant use in case of fire
24 or emergency, including all exits, exit access and exist discharge

1 from the interior of the building leading to the exterior public
2 way, exit court or yard area.

3 C. Nothing in the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code or any code
4 adopted by any political subdivision of this state, or any rules or
5 regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, shall be construed to
6 cause a church to be in violation of the Oklahoma Uniform Building
7 Code or any building code adopted by a political subdivision of this
8 state for the sole reason the church offers temporary overnight
9 visitor services within the authority of this section.

10 D. As used in this section:

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

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; and

20 3. "Temporary" means no more than seven (7) consecutive days,
21 accumulating to no more than forty (40) days in a calendar year.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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