

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 312

By: Simpson of the Senate

3 and

4 Ownbey of the House

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6 An Act relating to building codes; amending Section
7 1, Chapter 378, O.S.L. 2016 (74 O.S. Supp. 2016,
8 Section 317.2), which relates to church
9 accommodations; modifying definitions; adding certain
10 requirement for certain purpose; providing an
11 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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
accommodate displaced persons due to hardship or inclement weather.

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

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

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

14 2. A hard-wired stand-alone fire and smoke alarm in the area of
15 overnight accommodations in addition to an exit door opening
16 directly to a public way, exit court or yard area; or

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

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

8 D. As used in this section:

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

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; and

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

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

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

3 Passed the Senate the 21st day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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7 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
8 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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