

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 312

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Ownbey of the House

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; modifying definitions; adding certain requirement for certain purpose; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Building codes

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 accommodate displaced persons due to hardship or inclement weather. Such building use shall not constitute a change in code occupancy rating, purposes or activities. Provided, any temporary overnight

visitor space utilized by a church within its existing buildings as authorized by this section shall be authorized only for a limited duration, unless the Governor has declared a state of emergency or exigent circumstances exist. The church acting pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not charge for its accommodations nor be deemed a bed and breakfast, hotel or motel for any code occupancy rating purposes.

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

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

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

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

D. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 4th day of May, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of April, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_

day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

By: \_\_\_\_\_