

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 7, 2015

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
4 BILL NO. 1007

By: Brumbaugh, Bennett,  
McCullough, Ritze and  
Cleveland of the House

5 and

6 Newberry and Brecheen of  
7 the Senate

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10 An Act relating to marriage; prohibiting requirement  
11 of religious official to solemnize a marriage that  
12 violates their conscience or religious beliefs;  
13 providing for civil immunity; defining terms;  
14 providing for codification; and providing an  
15 effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7.1 of Title 43, unless there is  
19 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. No regularly licensed, ordained or authorized official of  
21 any religious organization shall be required to solemnize or  
22 recognize any marriage that violates the official's conscience or  
23 religious beliefs. A regularly licensed, ordained or authorized  
24 official of any religious organization shall be immune from any  
civil claim or cause of action based on a refusal to solemnize or

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

3 B. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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.

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

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
22 April 7, 2015 - DO PASS

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