

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL 1329

By: Ford of the Senate

and

Dunlap and Strohm of the
House

8
9 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to building codes; permitting certain
11 church activities under certain occupancy ratings and
12 codes; construing certain use of building; limiting
13 certain use; providing certain exception to certain
14 limitations; construing certain building use as a
15 non-violation of code; defining terms; providing for
16 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 317.2 of Title 74, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. The Oklahoma Uniform Building Code or any building code
22 adopted by any political subdivision of this state, or any rules or
23 regulations promulgated thereto, may permit the authority having
24 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

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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