An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1007

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

and

Newberry and Brecheen of the Senate

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

SUBJECT: Marriage

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

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

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

B. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of February, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 22nd day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 27th day of April, 20 15, at 2:35 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 1st day of May, 20 15, at 11:39 o'clock A M.

Mary Fallin

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 1st day of May, 20 15, at 2:25 o'clock P M.

By: JoAnn McNaughton-Hayes