



OFFICE OF

No. SB 788

**THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., May 1, 2015

TIME SIGNED: 12:25pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE
FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 788:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 788.

Senate Bill 788 is an act which seeks to protect religious freedom. It prohibits a person whose duties include performing or solemnizing marriages – specifically mentioning preachers, ministers, priests, rabbis or other ecclesiastical dignitaries – from being compelled to perform or solemnize a marriage “in violation of his or her right to the free exercise of religion.”

SB 788 bill contains significant overlap and redundancies with House Bill 1007, also dealing with religious freedom. HB 1007 states that “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.”

Freedom of religion is an essential right and no religious figure should ever be compelled to violate their religious convictions by the government. Today I signed HB 1007 into law in support of that important principle. To prevent duplicative and overlapping statutes, I hereby veto SB 788.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Becky Welch

Date/Time 5-1-15 2:20pm

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2015

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE