SB1503 FA2 MunsonCy-MJ 4/27/2022 3:29:38 pm

# FLOOR AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend <u>SB1503</u> Of the printed Bill Page Section Lines Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Cyndi Munson

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Clerk

1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)
3	FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED
4	SENATE BILL NO. 1503 By: Daniels and Jett of the Senate
5	and
6	Russ of the House
7	
8	
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10	FLOOR SUBSTITUTE
11	An Act relating to abortion; declaring individual right to reproductive autonomy; defining terms;
12	prohibiting performance of abortion except under certain conditions; requiring certain test to meet
13	specified criteria; requiring physician to record certain information; prohibiting performance of
14	abortion under certain conditions; clarifying allowed conduct; specifying effect of certain provisions;
15 16	providing exception for medical emergency; requiring physician to record certain information; providing exception for abortion performed at the behest of
10	federal entities; providing for and prohibiting certain enforcement; allowing certain persons to
18	bring certain civil action; requiring and prohibiting certain civil relief; establishing deadline for
19	filing of civil action; allowing and disallowing certain defenses; prohibiting certain acts by
20	specified persons and entities; specifying applicability of certain provisions; prohibiting
21	certain civil actions; authorizing and prohibiting affirmative defense under certain conditions;
	specifying venue for civil action; prohibiting certain transfer of venue; granting specified
22	entities certain immunities; prohibiting certain
23	waiver of immunity; limiting jurisdiction of courts; establishing liability for court costs and attorney
24	fees; defining term; establishing statute of

1 limitation for bringing certain actions; prohibiting use of certain defenses; providing for severability; expressing legislative intent and declarations; 2 providing for certain interpretation and enforcement; providing certain construction; amending 12 O.S. 3 2021, Section 1439, which relates to the Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act; adding exception; 4 amending 51 O.S. 2021, Section 255, which relates to 5 the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act; limiting applicability of act; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency. 6 7 8 9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: A new section of law to be codified 10 SECTION 1. NEW LAW in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.31 of Title 63, unless 11 12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: An individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is 13 central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life 14 course and shall not be denied or infringed upon unless justified by 15 a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means. 16 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.32 of Title 63, unless 18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 19 As used in this act: 20 "Fetal heartbeat" means cardiac activity or the steady and 1. 21 repetitive rhythmic contraction of the fetal heart within the 22 gestational sac; 23

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1 2. "Gestational age" means the amount of time that has elapsed from the first day of a woman's last menstrual period; 2 3. "Gestational sac" means the structure comprising the 3 extraembryonic membranes that envelop the unborn child and that is 4 5 typically visible by ultrasound after the fourth week of pregnancy; 4. "Physician" means an individual licensed to practice 6 medicine in this state including a medical doctor and a doctor of 7 osteopathic medicine; 8 9 5. "Pregnancy" means the human female reproductive condition 10 that: begins with fertilization, 11 a. occurs when the woman is carrying the developing human 12 b. offspring, and 13 is calculated from the first day of the woman's last с. 14 menstrual period; 15 6. "Standard medical practice" means the degree of skill, care, 16 and diligence that an obstetrician of ordinary judgment, learning, 17 and skill would employ in like circumstances; 18 7. "Unborn child" means a human fetus or embryo in any stage of 19 gestation from fertilization until birth; and 20 "Woman" and "women" include any person whose biological sex 8. 21 is female including any person with XX chromosomes and any person 22 with a uterus, regardless of any gender identity that the person 23 attempts to assert or claim. 24

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SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.33 of Title 63, unless
 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For the purposes of determining the presence of a fetal
heartbeat under this section, "standard medical practice" includes
employing the appropriate means of detecting the heartbeat based on
the estimated gestational age of the unborn child and the condition
of the woman and her pregnancy.

9 B. Except as provided by Sections 5 and 6 of this act, an
10 abortion may not be performed or induced on a pregnant woman unless
11 a physician has determined, in accordance with this section, whether
12 the woman's unborn child has a detectable fetal heartbeat.

13 C. In making a determination under subsection B of this14 section, the physician must use a test that is:

Consistent with the physician's good faith and reasonable
 understanding of standard medical practice; and

17 2. Appropriate for the estimated gestational age of the unborn18 child and the condition of the pregnant woman and her pregnancy.

D. A physician making a determination under subsection B ofthis section shall record in the pregnant woman's medical record:

The estimated gestational age of the unborn child;
 The method used to estimate the gestational age; and
 The test used for detecting a fetal heartbeat including the
 date, time, and results of the test.

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SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.34 of Title 63, unless
 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Except as provided by Sections 5 and 6 of this act, a
physician shall not knowingly perform or induce an abortion on a
pregnant woman if the physician detected a fetal heartbeat for the
unborn child as required by Section 3 of this act or failed to
perform a test to detect a fetal heartbeat.

9 B. A physician shall not be in violation of this section if the
10 physician performed a test for a fetal heartbeat as required by
11 Section 3 of this act and did not detect a fetal heartbeat.

C. This section shall not affect any provision of state law that regulates or prohibits abortion including but not limited to any provision that restricts or regulates an abortion by a particular method or during a particular stage of pregnancy.

16 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.35 of Title 63, unless 18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Sections 3 and 4 of this act shall not apply if a physician believes a medical emergency exists that prevents compliance with this act.

B. A physician who performs or induces an abortion under
circumstances described by subsection A of this section shall make
written notations in the pregnant woman's medical record of:

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The physician's belief that a medical emergency necessitated
 the abortion; and

3 2. The medical condition of the pregnant woman that prevented4 compliance with this act.

C. A physician performing or inducing an abortion under this
section shall maintain in the physician's practice records a copy of
the notations made under subsection B of this section.

8 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.36 of Title 63, unless 10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Sections 3 and 4 of this act do not apply to an abortion performed at the behest of federal agencies, contractors, or employees that are carrying out duties under federal law, if a prohibition on that abortion would violate the doctrines of preemption or intergovernmental immunity.

16 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.37 of Title 63, unless 18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 19 This act shall not be construed to:

Create or recognize a right to abortion before a fetal
 heartbeat is detected;

22 2. Authorize the initiation of a cause of action against or the
23 prosecution of a woman on whom an abortion is performed or induced
24 or attempted to be performed or induced in violation of this act;

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3. Wholly or partly repeal, either expressly or by implication,
 any other statute that regulates or prohibits abortion; or

3 4. Restrict a political subdivision from regulating or4 prohibiting abortion in any manner.

5 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.38 of Title 63, unless 7 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Notwithstanding any other law, the requirements of this act 8 9 shall be enforced exclusively through a private civil action described in Section 9 of this act. No direct or indirect 10 enforcement of this act may be taken or threatened by the state, a 11 12 political subdivision, a district attorney, or an executive or 13 administrative officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision against any person or entity, in any manner whatsoever, 14 except as provided in Section 9 of this act, and no violation of 15 this act may be used to justify or trigger the enforcement of any 16 other law or any type of adverse consequence under any other law, 17 except as provided in Section 9 of this act; provided, that this 18 section does not preclude enforcement of any other law or regulation 19 against conduct that is independently prohibited by such other law 20 or regulation. 21

22 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.39 of Title 63, unless 24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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A. Any person, other than the state, its political
 subdivisions, and any officer or employee of a state or local
 governmental entity in this state, may bring a civil action against
 any person who:

Performs or induces an abortion in violation of this act;

6 2. Knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets the
7 performance or inducement of an abortion including paying for or
8 reimbursing the costs of an abortion through insurance or otherwise,
9 if the abortion is performed or induced in violation of this act,
10 regardless of whether the person knew or should have known that the
11 abortion would be performed or induced in violation of this act; or

Intends to engage in the conduct described by paragraph 1 or
 2 of this subsection.

B. If a claimant prevails in an action brought under thissection, the court shall award:

Injunctive relief sufficient to prevent the defendant from
 violating this act or engaging in acts that aid or abet violations
 of this act;

19 2. Statutory damages in an amount of not less than Ten Thousand 20 Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each abortion that the defendant performed 21 or induced in violation of this act, and for each abortion performed 22 or induced in violation of this act that the defendant aided or 23 abetted;

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3. Nominal and compensatory damages if the plaintiff has
 suffered harm from the defendant's conduct including but not limited
 to loss of consortium and emotional distress; and

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4. Court costs and attorney fees.

5 С. Notwithstanding subsection B of this section, a court shall not award relief under paragraphs 2 or 4 of subsection B of this 6 section in response to a violation of paragraph 1 or 2 of subsection 7 A of this section if the defendant demonstrates that a court has 8 9 already ordered the defendant to pay not less than Ten Thousand 10 Dollars (\$10,000.00) of statutory damages as provided in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section in a previous action for that 11 12 particular abortion performed or induced in violation of this act, 13 or for the particular conduct that aided or abetted an abortion performed or induced in violation of this act. 14

D. Notwithstanding any other law, a person may bring an action under this section not later than six (6) years after the date the cause of action accrues.

18 E. Notwithstanding any other law, the following are not a 19 defense to an action brought under this section:

20 1. Ignorance or mistake of law;

21 2. A defendant's belief that the requirements of this act are 22 unconstitutional or were unconstitutional;

3. A defendant's reliance on any court decision that has beenoverruled on appeal or by a subsequent court, even if that court

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1 decision had not been overruled when the defendant engaged in 2 conduct that violates this act;

3 4. A defendant's reliance on any state or federal court
4 decision that is not binding on the court in which the action has
5 been brought;

5. Nonmutual issue preclusion or nonmutual claim preclusion;
6. The consent of the unborn child's mother to the abortion; or
7. Any claim that the enforcement of this act or the imposition
9 of civil liability against the defendant will violate the
10 constitutional rights of third parties, except as provided by
11 Section 10 of this act.

F. 1. It is an affirmative defense if a person sued under paragraph 2 or 3 of subsection A of this section reasonably believed, after conducting a reasonable investigation, that the individuals and organizations involved with performing or facilitating the abortion would comply with this act.

The defendant has the burden of proving an affirmative
 defense under paragraph 1 of this subsection by a preponderance of
 the evidence.

G. This section shall not be construed to impose liability on
any speech or conduct protected by the First Amendment of the United
States Constitution, as made applicable to the states through the
United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fourteenth

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Amendment of the United States Constitution, or by Section 3 or 22
 of Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution.

3 H. 1. Notwithstanding any other law, neither the state, nor 4 any of its political subdivisions, nor any district or county 5 attorney, nor any executive or administrative officer or employee of 6 this state or a political subdivision may:

- a. act in concert or participation with anyone who brings
  suit under this section,
- 9 b. establish or attempt to establish any type of agency
  10 or fiduciary relationship with a plaintiff who brings
  11 suit under this section,
- 12 c. make any attempt to control or influence a plaintiff's
   13 decision to bring suit under this section or the
   14 plaintiff's conduct of the litigation, or

d. intervene in an action brought under this section.
2. This subsection shall not prohibit a person or entity
described by this subsection from filing an amicus curiae brief in
the action, so long as that person or entity does not act in concert
or participation with the plaintiff or plaintiffs who sue under this
section or violate any provision of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

I. Notwithstanding any other law, a court shall not award court costs or attorney fees to a defendant in an action brought under this section.

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J. Notwithstanding any other law, a civil action under this section shall not be subject to any provision of the Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act, Section 1430 et seq. of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and shall not be subject to any provision of the Soklahoma Religious Freedom Act, Section 251 et seq. of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 K. Notwithstanding any other law, a civil action under this8 section shall not be brought:

9 1. Against the woman upon whom an abortion was performed or 10 induced or attempted to be performed or induced in violation of this 11 act, or against a pregnant woman who intends or seeks to abort her 12 unborn child in violation of this act;

Against any person or entity that performs, aids or abets,
 or attempts to perform or aid or abet an abortion at the behest of
 federal agencies, contractors, or employees that are carrying out
 duties under federal law, if a prohibition on that abortion would
 violate the doctrines of preemption or intergovernmental immunity;

18 3. Against any common carrier that transports a pregnant woman 19 to an abortion provider, if the common carrier is unaware that the 20 woman intends to abort her unborn child; or

4. By a person who impregnated a woman seeking an abortion
through an act of rape, sexual assault, incest, or any other act
prohibited by state law.

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SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.40 of Title 63, unless
 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. A defendant against whom an action is brought under
Section 9 of this act may assert an affirmative defense to liability
under this section if:

- a. the defendant has standing to assert the rights of
  women seeking an abortion under the tests for thirdparty standing established by the United States
  Supreme Court, and
- b. the imposition of civil liability on the defendant
  will result in an undue burden on a woman or group of
  women seeking an abortion.

14 2. The defendant shall bear the burden of proving the 15 affirmative defense in this subsection by a preponderance of the 16 evidence.

B. The affirmative defense under subsection A of this section
shall not be available if the United States Supreme Court overrules *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) or *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505
U.S. 833 (1992), regardless of whether the conduct on which the
cause of action is based under Section 9 of this act occurred before
the Supreme Court overruled either of those decisions.

C. Nothing in this section or this act shall in any way limitor preclude a defendant from asserting the defendant's personal

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1 constitutional rights as a defense to liability under Section 9 of 2 this act, and a court shall not award relief under Section 9 of this 3 act if the conduct for which the defendant has been sued was an 4 exercise of state or federal constitutional rights that personally 5 belong to the defendant.

D. Nothing in this section or this act shall limit or preclude
a defendant from asserting the unconstitutionality of any provision
of this act as a defense to liability under Section 9 of this act.
SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.41 of Title 63, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Notwithstanding any other law, a civil action brought underSection 9 of this act shall be brought in:

The county in which all or a substantial part of the events
 or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred;

16 2. The county of residence for any one of the natural person17 defendants at the time the cause of action accrued;

18 3. The county of the principal office in this state of any one19 of the defendants that is not a natural person; or

20 4. The county of residence for the claimant if the claimant is21 a natural person residing in this state.

B. If a civil action is brought under Section 9 of this act inany one of the venues described by subsection A of this section, the

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action shall not be transferred to a different venue without the
 written consent of all parties.

3 SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.42 of Title 63, unless 5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Notwithstanding any other law, this state has sovereign 6 immunity, a political subdivision has governmental immunity, and 7 each officer and employee of this state or a political subdivision 8 9 has official immunity in any action, claim, counterclaim, or any 10 type of legal or equitable action that challenges the validity of any provision or application of this act, on constitutional grounds 11 12 or otherwise, or that seeks to prevent or enjoin the state, its political subdivisions, or any officer or employee of this state or 13 a political subdivision from enforcing any provision or application 14 of this act, unless that immunity has been abrogated or preempted by 15 federal law in a manner consistent with the Constitution of the 16 17 United States.

B. Notwithstanding any other law, no provision of state law may
be construed to waive or abrogate an immunity described by
subsection A of this section unless it expressly waives immunity
with specific reference to this section.

C. Notwithstanding any other law, no attorney representing this state, a political subdivision, or any officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision is authorized or permitted to waive

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an immunity described in subsection A or take any action that would
 result in a waiver of that immunity.

D. Notwithstanding any other law, no court of this state shall have jurisdiction to consider any action, claim, or counterclaim that seeks declaratory or injunctive relief to prevent this state, a political subdivision, any officer or employee of this state or a political subdivision, or any person from enforcing any provision or application of this act, or from filing a civil action under this act.

E. Nothing in this section or this act shall be construed to prevent a litigant from asserting the invalidity or unconstitutionality of any provision or application of this act as a defense to any action, claim, or counterclaim brought against that litigant.

15 SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.43 of Title 63, unless 17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Notwithstanding any other law, any party including an entity, attorney, or law firm, who seeks declaratory or injunctive relief to prevent this state, a political subdivision, any governmental entity or public official in this state, or any person in this state from enforcing any statute, ordinance, rule, regulation, or any other type of law that regulates or restricts abortion or that limits taxpayer funding for individuals or entities

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1 that perform or promote abortions, in any state or federal court, or 2 that represents any litigant seeking such relief in any state or 3 federal court, shall be jointly and severally liable for court costs 4 and attorney fees of the prevailing party.

B. For purposes of this section, a party is considered a
prevailing party with respect to a claim or cause of action if a
state or federal court:

8 1. Dismisses that claim or cause of action brought against the 9 party that seeks the declaratory or injunctive relief described by 10 subsection A of this section, regardless of the reason for the 11 dismissal; or

Enters judgment in the party's favor on that claim or cause
 of action.

C. Regardless of whether a prevailing party sought to recover court costs or attorney fees in the underlying action, a prevailing party under this section may bring a civil action to recover court costs and attorney fees against a party including an entity, attorney, or law firm, that sought declaratory or injunctive relief described by subsection A of this section not later than three (3) years after the date on which, as applicable:

The dismissal or judgment described by subsection B of this
 section becomes final on the conclusion of appellate review; or
 The time for seeking appellate review expires.

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D. It is not a defense to an action brought under subsection C
 of this section that:

A prevailing party under this section failed to seek
 recovery of court costs or attorney fees in the underlying action;
 The court in the underlying action declined to recognize or
 enforce the requirements of this section; or

7 3. The court in the underlying action held that any provisions
8 of this section are invalid, unconstitutional, or preempted by
9 federal law, notwithstanding the doctrines of issue or claim
10 preclusion.

11 SECTION 14. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-745.44 of Title 63, unless 13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Mindful of Leavitt v. Jane L., 518 U.S. 137 (1996), in which 14 in the context of determining the severability of a state statute 15 regulating abortion the Supreme Court of the United States held that 16 an explicit statement of legislative intent is controlling, it is 17 the intent of the Legislature that every provision, section, 18 subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word in this act, and every 19 application of the provisions in this act to every person, group of 20 persons, or circumstances, are severable from each other. 21

B. If any application of any provision in this act to any
person, group of persons, or circumstances is found by a court to be
invalid, preempted, unconstitutional, or to impose an undue burden

1 on any woman or group of women seeking an abortion, then the 2 remaining applications of that provision to all other persons and circumstances shall be severed and preserved, and shall remain in 3 effect. All constitutionally valid applications of the provisions 4 5 in this act, and every application of those provisions that can be enforced without imposing an undue burden on women seeking 6 abortions, shall be severed from any applications that a court finds 7 to be invalid, preempted, unconstitutional, or to impose an undue 8 9 burden on women seeking abortions, and the valid applications shall remain in force, because it is the Legislature's intent and priority 10 that every valid application be allowed to stand alone. Even if a 11 12 reviewing court finds a provision of this act to impose an undue burden in a large or substantial fraction of relevant cases, the 13 applications that do not present an undue burden shall be severed 14 from the remaining applications and shall remain in force, and shall 15 be treated as if the Legislature had enacted a statute limited to 16 the persons, group of persons, or circumstances for which the 17 statute's application does not impose an undue burden. 18

C. The Legislature further declares that it would have enacted this act, and each provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word, and all constitutional applications of the provisions of this act, irrespective of the fact that any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word, or

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applications of this act were to be declared invalid, preempted,
 unconstitutional, or to impose an undue burden.

D. If any provision of this act is found by any court to be unconstitutionally vague, then the applications of that provision that do not present constitutional vagueness problems shall be severed and remain in force, consistent with the severability requirements of subsections A, B, and C of this section.

E. No court may decline to enforce the severability 8 9 requirements of subsections A, B, C, and D of this section on the ground that severance would "rewrite" the statute or involve the 10 court in legislative or lawmaking activity. A court that declines 11 12 to enforce or enjoins a state official from enforcing a statutory 13 provision does not rewrite a statute, as the statute continues to contain the same words as before the court's decision. A judicial 14 injunction or declaration of unconstitutionality: 15

Is nothing more than an edict prohibiting enforcement that
 may subsequently be vacated by a later court if that court has a
 different understanding of the requirements of the Oklahoma
 Constitution or United States Constitution;

Is not a formal amendment of the language in a statute; and
 No more rewrites a statute than a decision by the executive
 not to enforce a duly enacted statute in a limited and defined set
 of circumstances.

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1 F. If any state or federal court disregards the severability requirements of subsections A, B, C, D, and E of this section, and 2 declares or finds any provision of this act facially 3 unconstitutional, when there are discrete applications of that 4 5 provision that can be enforced against a person, group of persons, or circumstances without violating federal law, the federal or state 6 constitutions, or imposing an undue burden on women seeking 7 abortions, then that provision shall be interpreted, as a matter of 8 9 state law, as if the Legislature had enacted a provision limited to 10 the persons, group of persons, or circumstances for which the provision's application will not violate federal law, the federal or 11 12 state constitutions, or impose an undue burden on women seeking abortions, and every court shall adopt this saving construction of 13 that provision until the court ruling that pronounced the provision 14 facially unconstitutional is vacated or overruled. 15

16 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 12 O.S. 2021, Section 1439, is 17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 1439. The Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act shall not 19 apply to:

An enforcement action that is brought in the name of this
 state or a political subdivision of this state by the Attorney
 General or a district attorney;

23 2. A legal action brought against a person primarily engaged in24 the business of selling or leasing goods or services, if the

1 statement or conduct the action is based upon arises out of the sale 2 or lease of goods, services, or an insurance product, insurance services, or a commercial transaction in which the intended audience 3 is an actual or potential buyer or customer; 4 5 3. A legal action seeking recovery for bodily injury, wrongful death or survival or to statements made regarding that legal action; 6 7 <del>or</del> 4. A legal action brought under the Oklahoma Insurance Code or 8 9 arising out of an insurance contract; or 5. A civil action brought under Section 9 of this act. 10 SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 255, is 11 12 amended to read as follows: Section 255. A. Nothing in this act shall be construed to: 13 1. Authorize any government entity to substantially burden any 14 religious belief; 15 2. Authorize same sex marriages, unions, or the equivalent 16 thereof; or 17 3. Affect, interpret, or in any way address those portions of 18 Article 1, Section 2, and Article 2, Section 5, of the Constitution 19 of the State of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act, or the 20 First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States that 21 prohibit laws respecting the establishment of religion. 22 B. Granting governmental funds, benefits, or exemptions to the 23 extent permissible under paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section 24

shall not constitute a violation of this section. As used in this
 subsection, "granting government funds, benefits, or exemptions"
 shall not include the denial of government funding, benefits, or
 exemptions. This provision does not in and of itself require
 vouchers.

C. A civil action brought under Section 9 of this act shall not be subject to any provision of the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act. SECTION 17. 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. 58-2-11473 KN 04/27/22