

1-1 By: Parker (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 1558  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2015;  
 1-3 May 7, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
 1-4 Affairs; May 18, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 18, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the authority of a municipality to regulate churches  
 1-20 that provide overnight shelter for children.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 215, Local Government  
 1-23 Code, is amended by adding Section 215.006 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 215.006. CHURCH PROVIDING OVERNIGHT SHELTER. (a) In  
 1-25 this section:

1-26 (1) "Church" means a facility that is owned by a  
 1-27 religious organization and that is used primarily for religious  
 1-28 services.

1-29 (2) "Religious organization" means an organization  
 1-30 that meets the standards for qualification as a religious  
 1-31 organization under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

1-32 (b) A municipality may not adopt an ordinance, or enforce  
 1-33 an existing ordinance, that prohibits a church from providing  
 1-34 overnight shelter for children 17 years of age and younger.

1-35 (c) A municipal ordinance or regulation that relates to the  
 1-36 safe and sanitary operation of a homeless shelter for children  
 1-37 applies to a church that provides overnight shelter for children.

1-38 (d) A municipality may adopt or enforce an ordinance  
 1-39 establishing limits on the number of nights a child may use an  
 1-40 overnight shelter provided by a church or on the number of children  
 1-41 that can be housed in the shelter per night.

1-42 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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