

CHAPTER 608

S.B. No. 281

AN ACT

relating to exempting certain facilities from licensure under the Personal Care Facility Licensing Act.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 247.004, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 247.004. *EXEMPTIONS* [~~EXEMPTION~~]. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) a boarding facility that has rooms for rent and that may offer community meals but that does not provide personal care services;

(2) an establishment conducted by or for the adherents of the Church of Christ, Scientist, for the purpose of providing facilities for the care or treatment of the sick who depend exclusively on prayer or spiritual means for healing without the use of any drug or material remedy if the establishment complies with local safety, sanitary, and quarantine ordinances and regulations; or

*(3) a facility conducted by or for the adherents of a qualified religious society classified as a tax-exempt organization under an Internal Revenue Service group exemption ruling for the purpose of providing personal care services without charge solely for the society's professed members or ministers in retirement, if the facility complies with local safety, sanitation, and quarantine ordinances and regulations.*

SECTION 2. Section 247.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (5) to read as follows:

*(5) "Qualified religious society" means a church, synagogue, or other organization or association that is organized primarily for religious purposes and that:*

*(A) has been in existence in this state for at least 35 years; and*

*(B) does not distribute any of its income to its members, officers, or governing body other than as reasonable compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses.*

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 7, 1993: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on May 22, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 13, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.