

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 14</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sen. Bullard</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11/30/2018</b>

**Bill Analysis**

SB 14 creates the Oklahoma Science Education Act. It will require the State Board of Education, school boards, superintendents, and principals to develop a learning atmosphere encouraging critical thinking, analysis, and questioning the “strengths and weaknesses” of existing scientific theories. Neither the State Board nor school administrators may prohibit teachers from helping students analyze and critique scientific theories. Teachers will be granted immunity from civil liability and termination for carrying out the provisions of this measure. The measure further states that it is not to be construed to advance or inhibit any religious doctrine or discriminate against any belief or nonbelief. All school districts must be notified of the provisions of this bill by the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor

**Fiscal Analysis**

No fiscal impact.

Creates the Oklahoma Science Education Act. The State Board of Education, school district boards of education, school district superintendents and school principals shall endeavor to create an environment in their schools that encourages students to explore scientific questions, develop critical thinking skill and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about controversial issues.

Teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze, critique and review strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories. Prohibits boards, superintendents, principals from encroaching on a teacher help their students understand, analyze, critique and review scientific theories.

Does not advance or inhibit any religious doctrine, beliefs or nonbeliefs or discrimination for or against religion or non-religion. Grants a teacher immunity from civil liability or termination of employment for acts described in the legislation.