

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL NO. 14

By: Bullard

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school curriculum; creating the
8 Oklahoma Science Education Act; providing short
9 title; providing for the creation of a school
10 environment that encourages the exploration of
11 scientific theories; allowing teachers to help
12 students analyze certain scientific strengths and
13 weaknesses; prohibiting the advancement or inhibition
14 of religious doctrine; providing for certain
15 notification; providing for certain immunity from
16 liability; providing for codification; providing an
17 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.12 of Title 70, unless
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
23 Science Education Act".

24 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.13 of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The State Board of Education, school district boards of
2 education, school district superintendents and school principals
3 shall endeavor to create an environment within public school
4 districts that encourages students to explore scientific questions,
5 learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills
6 and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion
7 about controversial issues.

8 B. The State Board of Education, school district boards of
9 education, school district superintendents and school principals
10 shall endeavor to assist teachers to find effective ways to present
11 the science curriculum as it addresses scientific controversies.
12 Teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze,
13 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths
14 and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in
15 the course being taught.

16 C. Neither the State Board of Education, nor any school
17 district board of education, school district superintendent nor
18 school principal shall prohibit any teacher in a public school
19 district in this state from helping students understand, analyze,
20 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths
21 and weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course
22 being taught.

23 D. This section only protects the teaching of scientific
24 information and shall not be construed to advance or inhibit any

1 religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a
2 particular set of religious beliefs or nonbeliefs or promote
3 discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion.

4 E. By no later than the start of the 2019-2020 school year, the
5 State Department of Education shall notify school district boards of
6 education and school district superintendents of public schools in
7 the state of the provisions of this act. Each school district board
8 of education and school district superintendent shall notify all
9 employees within the school district of the provisions of this act.

10 F. A teacher as defined in Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes
11 who complies with the provisions of this act shall be granted
12 immunity from civil liability or termination of employment for acts
13 described in subsection B of this section.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

15 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
16 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
17 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
18 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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