

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1470

By: Standridge

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to public schools; creating the  
8 Students' Religious Belief Protection Act; providing  
9 short title; prohibiting public school from employing  
10 or contracting with certain persons; authorizing  
11 parent to bring certain action; providing sequence of  
remedies for certain action; providing exception to  
application of The Governmental Tort Claims Act;  
providing for noncodification; providing for  
codification; and declaring an emergency.

12  
13  
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
16 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

17 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Students'  
18 Religious Belief Protection Act".

19 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-159 of Title 70, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. No public school of this state, as defined pursuant to  
23 Section 1-106 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall employ or  
24 contract with a person that promotes positions in the classroom or  
25

1 at any function of the public school that is in opposition to  
2 closely held religious beliefs of students.

3 B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
4 parent or parents may bring an action as guardian, guardian ad  
5 litem, or next friend on behalf of a child against a public school  
6 of this state in a court of competent jurisdiction for occurrences  
7 when a public school promotes positions in opposition to closely  
8 held religious beliefs of the student. The remedies for the cause  
9 of action pursuant to this section shall be available in the  
10 sequence as follows:

11 1. Petition for injunctive relief whereby the school and  
12 applicable personnel will immediately be enjoined from the conduct  
13 resulting in the promotion of positions in opposition to the closely  
14 held religious beliefs of the student.

15 2. If the school does not immediately comply with any relief  
16 issued by a court pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection, the  
17 petitioner may refile a claim for relief that shall name any and all  
18 individuals participating, employed, or contracted with the school  
19 that are directly or indirectly promoting positions in opposition to  
20 closely held religious beliefs of the student. Any named person  
21 whose act or omission constitutes a violation of this section shall  
22 be strictly liable for damages at a minimum of Ten Thousand Dollars  
23 (\$10,000.00) per incident, per individual. All persons found liable  
24 for damages shall make payment from personal resources and shall not

1 receive any assistance from individuals or groups. Any evidence of  
2 receiving outside assistance shall result in termination of their  
3 position and a stay placed on any reemployment with any public  
4 school position within the state for five (5) years.

5 3. If the school does not immediately comply with any relief  
6 issued by a court pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection,  
7 the petitioner may refile a claim for relief that shall name any and  
8 all individuals participating, employed, or contracted with the  
9 school that are directly or indirectly promoting positions in  
10 opposition to closely held religious beliefs of the student. A  
11 finding by the court of a violation made in the claim shall result  
12 in termination proceedings of the individuals in violation and shall  
13 also result in permanent prohibition from working or in any way  
14 being affiliated with a public school in this state.

15 C. A public school or an individual employed or contracted with  
16 a school subject to a claim made pursuant to the Students' Religious  
17 Belief Protection Act shall not have the limitations of liability or  
18 immunity provided by the Governmental Tort Claims Act.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.