

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 528

By: Pugh of the Senate

3 and

4 Davis of the House
5

6 An Act relating to schools; creating the Early
7 Childhood Literacy Task Force; providing expiration
8 date; providing for membership; providing for
9 designation of chair; requiring appointments by
10 certain date; requiring organizational meeting by
11 certain date; specifying quorum; providing for
12 frequency of meetings; allowing members to
participate via videoconference; prohibiting
compensation or travel reimbursement for members;
providing for staff support; requiring submission of
certain report by certain date; providing for
codification; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. There is hereby created until November 30, 2024, the Early
19 Childhood Literacy Task Force to study and make recommendations
20 regarding the teaching of literacy to students in early childhood
21 and elementary grade levels.

22 B. The task force shall be comprised of eight (8) members to be
23 appointed as follows:
24

1 1. Two certified reading specialists appointed by the President
2 Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated to serve
3 as chair of the task force;

4 2. One teacher certified in early childhood education appointed
5 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

6 3. One teacher certified in elementary education appointed by
7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

8 4. One teacher certified in English as a second language
9 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

10 5. One teacher certified in special education appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

12 6. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives, who shall be a dean of a college of education at an
14 institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of
15 Higher Education; and

16 7. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
17 Senate, who shall be an employee of the State Department of
18 Education whose focus is reading and literacy.

19 C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty
20 (30) days after the effective date of this act. The task force
21 shall conduct an organizational meeting not later than September 1,
22 2023.

1 D. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any
2 final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, four
3 members shall constitute a quorum.

4 E. The task force may meet as often as may be required to
5 perform the duties imposed upon it.

6 F. Task force members may participate via videoconference if
7 they are visible and audible to each other through a video monitor.

8 G. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or
9 travel reimbursement.

10 H. The State Department of Education shall provide staff and
11 administrative support for the task force.

12 I. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and
13 recommendations by November 30, 2024, to the Governor, the President
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and the chairs of the Senate and House of
16 Representatives education committees.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

1 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2023.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2023.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives