

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 20

By: Burns

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; prohibiting teachers of  
8 certain courses from being compelled to discuss  
9 certain events or issues; directing teachers of  
10 certain courses who choose to discuss certain events  
11 or issues to do so with certain perspectives;  
12 prohibiting public schools from requiring or awarding  
13 certain credit for certain work for or with certain  
14 organization engaged in certain lobbying; prohibiting  
15 public schools from requiring or awarding certain  
16 credit for certain lobbying; prohibiting the State  
17 Department of Education and public schools from  
18 accepting private funding for certain activities in  
19 certain courses; providing for promulgation of rules;  
20 providing for codification; providing an effective  
21 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

25 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
26 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-112 of Title 70, unless there  
27 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

28 A. 1. No teacher of history, civics, U.S. government, social  
29 studies, or similar subject areas in this state, whether for a  
30 course required to meet the graduation requirements as set forth in  
31 Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an advanced

1 placement course as defined in Section 1210.702 of Title 70 of the  
2 Oklahoma Statutes, shall be compelled by a policy of any state  
3 agency, school district board of education, or school district  
4 administrator to discuss current events or widely debated and  
5 currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs.

6 2. If a teacher of history, civics, U.S. government, social  
7 studies, or similar subject areas in this state chooses to discuss  
8 current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues  
9 of contemporary public policy or contemporary social affairs, he or  
10 she shall explore such issues from diverse and contending  
11 perspectives to the best of his or her ability.

12 B. In any course in history, civics, U.S. government, social  
13 studies, or similar subject areas in this state, whether for a  
14 course required to meet the graduation requirements as set forth in  
15 Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an advanced  
16 placement course as defined in Section 1210.702 of Title 70 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes, no public school in this state shall:

18 1. Require, make part of, or award course grading or credit for  
19 affiliation with or service learning in association with any  
20 organization engaged in lobbying for legislation at the local,  
21 state, or federal level or in social or public policy advocacy as  
22 part of such course; or  
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1           2. Require, make part of, or award course grading or credit for  
2 lobbying for legislation at the local, state, or federal level or  
3 any similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy.

4           C. Neither the State Department of Education nor any public  
5 school in this state shall accept private funding for curriculum  
6 development, purchase or choice of curricular materials, teacher  
7 preparation, or professional development pertaining to courses on  
8 history, civics, U.S. government, social studies, or similar subject  
9 areas in this state, whether for a course required to meet the  
10 graduation requirements as set forth in Section 11-103.6 of Title 70  
11 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an advanced placement course as defined  
12 in Section 1210.702 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13           D. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to  
14 implement the provisions of this section.

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

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

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