

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 938

By: Jett

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Time Release
8 Educational Credit Act (TRECA); providing short
9 title; defining term; allowing a school district
10 board of education to implement certain policy;
11 providing criteria for participation in certain
12 released time; requiring promulgation of rules that
13 include certain provisions; providing for attendance
14 of certain students; providing for transportation;
15 prohibiting certain participation in lieu of
16 participation in certain course of instruction;
17 providing for codification; providing an effective
18 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.6p of Title 70, unless
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Time
24 Release Educational Credit Act" (TRECA).

25 B. As used in this act, "released time" means a period of time
26 during a school day when a student is allowed to participate in an
27 elective course in religious instruction conducted by a private
28 entity off school district property.

1 C. A school district board of education may implement a policy
2 allowing a student to attend released time as an elective course if
3 the following criteria are met:

4 1. The parent or legal guardian of the student provides written
5 consent;

6 2. The religious curriculum of the elective course does not
7 undeniably promote licentiousness or practices that are inconsistent
8 with the peace and safety of this state;

9 3. The private entity conducting the religious instruction
10 makes provisions for and assumes liability for the student during
11 released time;

12 4. No public funds shall be expended to provide released time;
13 and

14 5. No school district personnel are involved in providing
15 religious instruction.

16 D. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
17 implement the provisions of this act including rules providing for
18 elective course credit to be granted to a student who participates
19 in released time pursuant to the provisions of this act and minimum
20 standards for attendance necessary to qualify for the elective
21 course credit. Elective course credit granted pursuant to this
22 subsection shall not exceed credit given for any other elective
23 course offered by a school district.

1 E. A student who participates in released time pursuant to this
2 act shall be considered in attendance while participating in
3 religious instruction.

4 F. Transportation to and from the released time location shall
5 be provided by the private entity providing religious instruction
6 off school district property, the parent or legal guardian of the
7 participating student, or the participating student.

8 G. A student shall not be permitted to participate in released
9 time in lieu of participation in a course of instruction, the
10 subject of which is included on assessments administered pursuant to
11 Section 1210.508 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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

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

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18 59-1-1626 EB 1/19/2023 11:00:00 AM