

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2168

BY: THOMPSON, CROCKER, BOYD,
TYLER, JOHNSON (Rob) and
SATTERFIELD of the HOUSE

and

SHEDRICK of the SENATE

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; CREATING A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY CERTAIN SCHOOL TEXTBOOK OPERATIONS; PROVIDING
FOR FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING FOR
MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENT, STAFFING AND
REIMBURSEMENT; PROVIDING FOR POWERS AND DUTIES;
PROVIDING FOR NONCODIFICATION; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. A. There is hereby created, to continue until
February 1, 1993, a task force to study textbook operations for the
public schools of the state. The Legislature finds that it is
necessary to create a task force and study textbook operations for
the following reasons:

1. The selection of textbooks for use in the public schools is
a fundamental part of the quality of education; and

2. In the report "Oklahoma's Public Education: A Blueprint for
Excellence" issued November 1989, Task Force 2000 recommended
collapsing all common education appropriation line-items into the
State Aid formula in the interest of school finance equity, a task

which was prohibitive for textbook funds due to the constitutional provision for textbook adoption; and

3. The state Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction with the support of the Oklahoma State Board of Education has recommended dismantling the current statutory system of textbook adoption in the state; and

4. The recent standardization and adoption of statewide tests and curriculum will greatly impact textbook selection for the public schools of this state; and

5. The Legislature has been requested by certain textbook publishers and other entities to alter the textbook adoption process in this state; and

6. The current textbook adoption process involves a complicated process which was originally intended to impact cost and quality control and to lessen the potential for corruption; and

7. The time and duty constraints of the legislative session preclude an in-depth review of the textbook adoption process; and

8. The Legislature has not comprehensively reviewed or altered the Constitutional or statutory provisions concerning textbook adoption since 1946.

B. The Task Force shall be composed of twenty-four (24) members. Seven members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, seven members shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and seven members shall be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. There shall be at least two members appointed from each congressional district on the Task Force. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Education Committee and the Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee shall serve as a member of the Task Force. The appointments shall be made within five (5) days after this act becomes law. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall

select a chairperson from among the members of the Task Force and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall select a vice-chairperson from among the members of the Task Force.

C. The Task Force shall be staffed by legislative staff with the assistance of personnel from the State Department of Education. The committee may contract for outside consultation through the Legislative Service Bureau.

D. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for attendance at the Task Force meetings by the agency they represent pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. The Task Force shall:

1. Study the current textbook operation process and compare and contrast it with the process in other states;

2. Study the feasibility of local control over textbook adoption versus state control and the implications for the state curriculum and state-mandated tests;

3. Review the recommendations of the Oklahoma Curriculum Committee concerning textbook adoption;

4. Study the potential opportunities for and effects of deregulation and censorship in textbook selection;

5. Examine the impact upon school finance equity of line-itemed state funds for textbooks;

6. Study the cost efficiency of utilization of a state depository versus other methods of textbook procurement;

7. Examine the ability of the state or local districts to control textbook costs under differing methods of textbook adoption and procurement;

8. Study the logistics, timeliness and distribution of textbooks for school districts;

9. Examine the qualitative ability of individual school districts to select textbooks independently of the resources currently employed by the State Textbook Committee;

10. Review the potential and opportunities for corruption in textbook adoption at the state level versus the local level;

11. Make recommendations as to the advisability of providing for textbook adoption in the Constitution;

12. Study the impact of the political process of appointment and confirmation of the State Textbook Committee upon textbook adoptions;

13. Report to the Legislature by January 1, 1993, on recommendations for improvement and more opportunities for local control in textbook adoption and modifications of the current system.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall not be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of February, 1992.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1992.

President of the Senate