

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 1017

BY: MILES-LaGRANGE, FORD,  
RUBOTTOM, SMITH and WRIGHT  
of the SENATE

and

HUDSON, CULVER, HENSHAW and  
ADAIR of the HOUSE

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS AND LITERACY; STATING  
LEGISLATIVE INTENT REGARDING DUTIES OF CENTER FOR  
THE STUDY OF LITERACY AT NORTHEASTERN STATE  
UNIVERSITY; STATING DUTIES OF CERTAIN ENTITIES;  
STATING DEFINITION OF LITERACY; PROVIDING FOR  
CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8003 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Center for the  
Study of Literacy located at Northeastern State University be  
responsible for:

1. Establishment of a clearinghouse for the exchange of  
information and sharing of ideas regarding successful literacy  
programs and opportunities for funding;
2. In cooperation with the Department of Education and the  
Department of Libraries, provision of assistance for the writing of  
applications for grants related to literacy;
3. Establishment of a statewide directory of literacy programs  
and related services, sorted by county and cross-referenced with  
support services, with the Clearinghouse for Literacy responsible  
for gathering, maintaining and disseminating the referral directory.

B. The State Department of Education, Adult and Community  
Educators; Private Industry Councils; Area Vocational Technical  
Schools; Department of Human Services; Department of Corrections;  
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission; Oklahoma Department of  
Libraries; community colleges and other institutions of higher  
education, and community-based organizations such as the Oklahoma  
Literacy Council shall be responsible for creation of a screening  
system for identification of persons most in need of assistance in  
becoming literate.

C. The Literacy Initiatives Commission in collaboration with  
the State Department of Education and the State Department of  
Libraries Literacy Office shall be responsible for:

1. Initiating a public awareness campaign to inform the public  
and private sector of literacy needs and available services;
2. Continuing and strengthening community-based pilot projects  
in both public and private sectors in urban and rural areas;

3. Continuing and strengthening programs for providing private sector employment incentives for unemployed and underemployed persons who complete appropriate literacy programs;

4. Development of a flyer to provide information regarding screening, assessment and referral resources at the state, regional and local levels;

5. Establishing the official definition for literacy in Oklahoma: The term "literacy" shall mean the ability to use such skills as reading, writing, speaking and computing, necessary to communicate and contribute effectively as family and community members, citizens, consumers and job holders, to continue the lifelong learning process;

6. Establishment of coordinated data gathering processes, including systems for tracing the progress of those having identified needs and the subsequent accomplishments in employment and education of persons completing literacy programs;

7. Development of strategies for the recruitment and training of greater numbers of volunteers, including college students, and for the focusing of volunteer efforts where needs are greatest;

8. Establishing Regional Literacy Coordinating Committees, using existing service delivery areas as geographical boundaries and following the membership pattern of the Literacy Initiatives Commission to coordinate literacy efforts under the guidance of the Literacy Initiatives Commission; and

9. Establishment of a Literacy Initiatives Commission coordinator to facilitate the Commission, with the Secretary of Education remaining as the Commission Chair.

D. The Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Libraries Literacy Office shall be responsible for providing technical assistance to the Literacy Initiatives Commission.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1992.

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 Senate the 15th day of May, 1992.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of May, 1992.

Speaker of the House of Representatives