STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

SENATE BILL NO. 306 BY: WILLIAMS (Don)

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 7, CHAPTER 329, O.S.L. 1985, AS LAST AMENDED BY SECTION 19, CHAPTER 2, O.S.L. SUPP. 1989 (70 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 1210.508), WHICH RELATES TO THE OKLAHOMA SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM ACT; AND PROVIDING CERTAIN IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 7, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 1985, as last amended by Section 19, Chapter 2, O.S.L. Supp. 1989 (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 1210.508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.508 A. In every school year, the State Board of Education shall cause a norm-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in grades three, five, seven, nine, and eleven of the public schools of this state. The test used shall be selected by the Board and shall measure specific skills represented by learner objectives. The student skills to be tested at the specified grade levels shall include reading, mathematics, language arts, communications, science and the principles of citizenship in

the United States and other countries through the study of the ideals, history and government of the United States and other countries of the world, and through the study of the principles of democracy as they apply in the lives of citizens. Because the purpose of such norm-referenced testing is to focus on the progress of students and to diagnose a student's strengths and weaknesses, the Board shall seek to ensure that data yielded from the test is utilized at the school district level to prescribe skill reinforcement and/or remediation by requiring school districts to develop and implement a specific program of improvement based on the test results.

B. The State Department of Education shall review existing norm-referenced tests commercially available and shall designate for statewide use those tests which evaluate the broadest range of identified, age-appropriate competencies. Such review process shall be coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with the work of the Oklahoma Curriculum Committee. The first report of the review shall be filed by the State Board of Education with the Oklahoma Legislature on or before June 30, 1992, and shall be filed with the Oklahoma Legislature on June 30 every third year thereafter.

C. In every school year, the Board shall cause a norm-referenced writing assessment test to be administered to every seventh- and tenth-grade student.

D. Beginning with the 1992-93 school year, the Board shall cause a criterion-referenced test to be administered to every student enrolled in the twelfth grade of the public schools of this state. This test shall be designed to indicate whether competencies expected of Oklahoma high school graduates, as defined by the Board, have been mastered by the student. The test shall include sections on reading and writing of English, culture and the arts, mathematics, science, geography and the history and government of the United States. Specific competencies expected and measures of

satisfactory performance shall be determined by the Board and shall be consistent with the curricula for instruction promulgated by the Board. Each twelfth-grade student shall have the opportunity to take the test not later than the end of October of the twelfth-grade year. Each such student who does not perform satisfactorily on all sections of the test shall have additional opportunities during the remainder of the student's twelfth-grade enrollment to retake sections of the test on which performance was unsatisfactory. Except as otherwise provided by law, and effective September 1, 1992, a student shall not receive a diploma from a public high school of this state until that student has performed satisfactorily on all sections of said test. A student who completes the requirements for graduation from a public high school of this state, but who does not qualify for a diploma as a result of this act shall receive a Certificate of Attendance and Completion. For purposes of test development, the Board is authorized to conduct pilot testing during the 1989-90, 1990-91, and 1991-92 school years. Teachers, administrators, or school board members shall not be individually liable for any student's failure to qualify for a high school diploma.

E. Beginning with the 1991-1992 school year, the Board shall develop and, beginning with the 1992-93 school year, shall administer and incorporate as a part of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, other testing programs or procedures necessary to measure additional competencies of students which are not adequately measured by the tests required by this section.

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