

SHORT TITLE: Schools; modifying statute governing courses of instruction; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE BILL NO. 1183

By: Leftwich

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103, as amended by Section 39, Chapter 239, O.S.L. 1993 (70 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 11-103), which relates to mandatory courses of instruction; specifying certain educational instruction; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103, as amended by Section 39, Chapter 239, O.S.L. 1993 (70 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 11-103), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103. A. Courses of educational instruction approved by the State Board of Education for use in school years prior to 1993-94 shall be those courses that are necessary to ensure:

1. The teaching of the necessary basic skills of learning and communication, including reading, English, writing, the use of numbers and science; and

2. The teaching of citizenship in the United States, in the State of Oklahoma, and in other countries, through the study of the United States Constitution, the amendments thereto, and the ideals, history, and government of the United States, other countries of the world, and the State of Oklahoma and through the study of the principles of democracy as they apply in the lives of citizens. In study of the United States Constitution, a written copy of the document itself shall be utilized.

The public school districts of this state shall ensure that each child enrolled therein is provided with adequate instruction in the basic skills as set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection. Each local board of education shall annually evaluate the district's curriculum in order to determine whether each child in the district is receiving adequate basic skill instruction as set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this subsection. The evaluation process shall provide for parental involvement. Effective July 1, 1990, each district shall submit its annual evaluation of the district's curriculum to the State Board of Education. The State Board shall make this information available to the Oklahoma Curriculum Committee and, beginning with the 1996-97 school year, shall utilize such information in its periodic evaluation of curriculum.

B. Courses approved by the State Board of Education for instruction of pupils in the public schools of the state for use in school years prior to 1993-94 may include courses that are approved by a local board of education and are necessary to ensure:

1. The teaching of health through the study of proper diet, the effects of alcoholic beverages, narcotics and other substances on the human system and through the study of such other subjects as will promote healthful living and help to establish proper health habits in the lives of school children;

2. The teaching of safety through training in the driving and operation of motor vehicles and such other devices of transportation as may be desirable and other aspects of safety which will promote the reduction of accidents and encourage habits of safe living among school children;

3. The teaching of physical education to all physically able students during the entire school year from first through sixth grade, through physical education, a weekly minimum of seventy-five (75) minutes per student, exclusive of recess activity, supervised play, intramurals, interschool athletics or other extracurricular

activities; provided, any student participating as a member of any school athletic team shall be excused from physical education classes; provided further, that certified physical education instructors shall not be required to administer the programs required for grades one through six. An elective program of instructional physical education designed to provide a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) minutes per week per student shall be provided for all students in the seventh grade through the twelfth grade. The State Board of Education shall prescribe qualifications for physical education instructors. Provided, however, that the State Department of Education shall be empowered to exempt all or a portion of this requirement if an undue hardship would result to the school district. Provided, further, that any student who has exceptional talent in music may, with the approval of the superintendent of schools in independent districts or in elementary districts, substitute a course in music for the above-required physical education course;

4. The teaching of the conservation of natural resources of the state and the nation that are necessary and desirable to sustain life and contribute to the comfort and welfare of the people now living and those who will live here in the future, such as soil, water, forests, minerals, oils, gas, all forms of wildlife, both plant and animal, and such other natural resources as may be considered desirable to study;

5. The teaching of vocational education, by the study of the various aspects of agriculture, through courses and farm youth organizations, such as FFA and 4-H clubs, homemaking and home economics, trades and industries, distributive education, mechanical and industrial arts and such other aspects of vocational education as will promote occupational competence among school children and adults as potential and actual citizens of the state and nation; and

6. The teaching of such other aspects of human living and citizenship as will achieve the legitimate objectives and purposes of public education.

SECTION 2. 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.

44-2-1400

SB