

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1205

By: Hager, O'Neal, Tyler,  
Steidley, Coleman,  
Begley, Stites,  
Greenwood and Perry of  
the House

and

Long (Ed), Ford,  
Hendrick, Rubottom,  
Williams (Penny) and  
Kerr of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; stating legislative intent concerning the acceptance of higher education credits among institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; stating legislative intent regarding the role of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; requiring certain report; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3224, which relates to English fluency in certain institutions of higher education; stating legislative intent regarding fluency in English for graduate teaching assistants; stating legislative intent concerning evaluation and certification of English fluency; providing exceptions; 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 3207.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature that credits earned by students in any institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education be fully accepted at any other institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education assume leadership in working with institutional faculty and administrators to ensure that students move smoothly from one level of education to another. Objectives should include development of transfer policies and guides, degree sheets, course equivalencies, and common course numbering. By January 1, 1996, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall submit, to the Chair of the Education Committee of the Oklahoma Senate and to the Chair of the Education Committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, a report on the progress made toward the identified objectives.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3224, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3224. A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that all instructors, including all graduate teaching assistants,

now employed or being considered for employment at institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be proficient in speaking the English language so that they may adequately instruct students.

B. Exceptions to this statement of intent shall include the instruction of courses that are:

1. Designed to be taught predominantly in a foreign language;  
and

2. Elective, special arrangement courses such as individualized instruction and independent study courses.

C. It is further the intent of the Legislature that each institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education evaluate its instructional faculty for oral, aural, and written fluency in the English language in the classroom. By September 1 of each year, each state institution shall file with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education a certification stating that the instructional faculty members, whose native language is other than English, hired either after July 1, 1995, or hired subsequent to the last annual certification, are proficient in the English language.

D. Each college and university of the State System shall provide an annual report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma Legislature by January 1 of each year setting forth the following information:

1. Procedures established to guarantee faculty members have proficiency in both written and spoken English; and

2. Procedures established to inform students of grievance procedures regarding instructors who are not able to speak the English language.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 4. 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 10th day of May, 1995.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 10th day of May, 1995.

President of the Senate