

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1491

By: Boyd (Betty)

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 2, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, Sections 3 and 4, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Sections 1 and 2, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Sections 3-125, 3-126 and 3-127), which relate to the Educational Deregulation Act; modifying purpose of act; authorizing the holding of certain elections to provide for deregulation of public schools; specifying such elections; adding certain component to plan; adding authorization for certain exemption; providing for the filing and accessibility of certain comments, recommendations and objections; authorizing certain additional elections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 3-125), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-125. The purpose of ~~this act~~ the Educational Deregulation Act is to ensure that local schools have the necessary freedom to innovate and improve education systems in order to maximize student learning and performance. Pursuant to this

purpose, school districts shall be allowed to develop, make application for and implement educational improvement plans which would exempt the school district, a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or school districts or other group within the district from the educational-related statutory regulations set forth in subsection ~~D~~ C of Section ~~3~~ 3-126 of this ~~act~~ title and the State Board of Education rules. The plans submitted by school districts and either approved by the State Board of Education or voter approval in a school district election subject to the provisions of Chapter 13A of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes should emphasize innovation, flexibility, and collaboration at the local school level, accountability at the state and local level, dissemination of results, and strict emphasis on improved student achievement.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 3-126), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-126. A. A school district may develop an educational improvement plan which includes exemption from the educational-related statutory requirements set forth in subsection C of this section and State Board of Education rules for the school district, a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or school districts or other group within the school district. The board of education of the school district shall, through adoption of a resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to the State Board of Education or prior to the plan being submitted for voter approval pursuant to Chapter 13A of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. Each educational improvement plan approved by the State Board of Education or approved by the voters pursuant to Chapter 13A of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall include the following components:

1. A description of the educational benefits to be derived;
2. A definition of the standards of the plan;
3. Development of definitive work products, such as site improvement plans and progress reports;
4. Demonstration of collaboration by teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and the community;
5. Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan;
6. Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to personnel at the site who will participate in the project;
7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other school districts and the State Department of Education as required; and
8. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools, programs or sites in the district; and
9. Report on any additional millage levies necessary to support such plan within the limits specified in Section 9 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution.

C. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State Board of Education rules the school district is requesting an exemption from and why each exemption is necessary to success of the plan. The school district shall not be granted an exemption from federal educational-related requirements. A school district may request an exemption from any statutory requirement or State Board of Education rule not related to bilingual and special education programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid, pupil formula weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, the core curriculum, the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program and the teacher preparation,

examination, licensure, certification, residency and professional development system.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 3-127), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-127. A. Prior to the adoption of a resolution by the local board of education as required in subsection A of Section 3-126 of this title, the local board of education shall provide for a period of public review and comment on the proposed educational improvement plan and shall notify and allow comment from the district bargaining agent of the plan. If no bargaining agent exists for that district, the teachers directly effected shall be notified and allowed to make comments. All Except when the district is holding an election relating to deregulation as specified in this act, all comments, recommendations and objections made by the bargaining agent and others to the local board of education shall be forwarded to the State Board of Education for consideration prior to review of the plan. If the district is holding an election, comments, recommendations and objections shall be filed with the district superintendent as an accessible public record.

B. Each educational improvement plan shall be approved by the State Board of Education or approved by the voters in the school district before implementation.

C. Approval of a plan, whether by the Board or by election by the voters, shall be for no longer than three (3) years. If a plan is approved, the school district shall be required to submit an annual report and the Board shall provide for an annual assessment of the plan.

D. The Board shall notify the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate of the approval of plans on a quarterly basis and shall provide the Speaker

and the President Pro Tempore with copies of the annual reports and assessments.

E. ~~If~~ Except for those plans approved by the voters in the school district after an election is held on the deregulation specified in this act, if the Board determines through the annual assessment process that the school district is not complying with the requirements of the Educational Deregulation Act or is not meeting the goals of the plan, it shall ~~first~~ provide notice to the district of its findings. ~~If~~ Except for those plans approved by the voters, if the school district does not come into compliance or take action to meet the goals of the plan, the Board shall withdraw approval and terminate the plan. After the three-year period specified in subsection C of this section, the district may hold another election on a plan.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 5. 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 26th day of February, 1997.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

President of the Senate