

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2896

By: Eddins

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 8001, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 111, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 8001), which relates to Literacy Initiatives Commission; modifying duties of the Commission; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 8001, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 111, O.S.L. 1994 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 8001), is amended to read as follows:

Section 8001. A. There is hereby re-created, to continue until July 1, 2000, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, Section 3901 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a Commission to be known as the Literacy Initiatives Commission. The duties of the Commission shall be to encourage and assist coordinated efforts by the public agencies, by volunteers, and by the enterprises of the private sector for the improvement of the level of literacy in all parts of this state. The Literacy Initiatives Commission, working with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the State Department of Education, and with established local literacy councils, shall study means of, make recommendations for, and foster the development of:

1. Establishment of a clearinghouse for the exchange of information and sharing of ideas regarding successful literacy programs and opportunities for funding;

2. Provision of assistance for the writing of applications for grants related to literacy;

3. Creation of a screening system for identification of persons most in need of assistance in becoming literate;

4. Establishment of literacy program referral services;

5. Development of one or more standard definitions of literacy as a basis for assessing the level of attainment of literacy in this state;

6. Establishment of coordinated data gathering processes, including systems for tracking 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 focussing of volunteer efforts where needs are greatest;

8. Development of community-based pilot projects in both public and private sectors in both urban and rural areas; and

9. Development of programs for providing private sector employment incentives for unemployed and underemployed persons who complete appropriate literacy programs.

B. The Literacy Initiatives Commission shall make recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at such times as, and as frequently as, the Commission deems appropriate. Not later than the tenth legislative day of the first session of each biennium, the Commission shall make a biennial report to the Legislature.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

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.

46-2-9210

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