

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1659

By: Newport, Hilliard,
Ostrander, Paulk and
Gilbert of the House

and

Crutchfield of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.1, which relates to teaching American Sign Language; requiring American Sign Language be granted the same credit as foreign language; 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 11-103.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.1 American Sign Language is hereby recognized as a language art and may be taught in the public schools of the state in educational programs for both hearing and deaf students. American Sign Language classes taught in the public schools may be counted by a public school in fulfilling elective course offerings and shall be granted the same credit as a foreign language. For the purposes of this section, American Sign Language may be taught in the public schools by any qualified teacher under the supervision of a certified teacher.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 30th day of March, 1999.

President of the Senate