

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 2117

By: Coleman of the House

and

Horner of the Senate

An Act relating to adult literacy; amending Section 1, Chapter 393, O.S.L. 1992 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 8003), which relates to the Center for the Study of Literacy and the Literacy Initiatives Commission; modifying legislative intent; providing for the establishment of a statewide literacy referral services system as funds become available; deleting provisions for creation of a literacy screening system; deleting provisions relating to duties of the Literacy Initiatives Commission; deleting provisions related to certain assistance to the Literacy Initiatives Commission; creating the Adult Literacy Services Advisory Committee; establishing duties of the Committee; requiring certain report; providing for appointments to Committee; providing for rules of operation of Committee; providing for travel reimbursement; requiring state's participation in the National Adult Literacy Survey; stating purpose; repealing 70 O.S. 1991, Section 8002, which relates to the composition of the Literacy Initiatives Commission; providing for codification; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 393, O.S.L. 1992 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 8003), is amended to read as follows:

Section 8003. ~~A.~~ It is the intent of the Legislature that the Center for the Study of Literacy located at Northeastern State University be responsible for:

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

2. In cooperation with the Department of Education and the Department of Libraries, provision of assistance for the writing of applications for grants related to literacy;

3. Establishment of a statewide directory of literacy programs and related services, sorted by county and cross-referenced with

support services, with the Clearinghouse for Literacy responsible for gathering, maintaining and disseminating the referral directory; and

4. Establishment and operation of a toll-free statewide literacy services referral system, as funds become available.

~~B. The State Department of Education, Adult and Community Educators; Private Industry Councils; Area Vocational Technical Schools; Department of Human Services; Department of Corrections; Oklahoma Employment Security Commission; Oklahoma Department of Libraries; community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations such as the Oklahoma Literacy Council shall be responsible for creation of a screening system for identification of persons most in need of assistance in becoming literate.~~

~~C. The Literacy Initiatives Commission in collaboration with the State Department of Education and the State Department of Libraries Literacy Office shall be responsible for:~~

~~1. Initiating a public awareness campaign to inform the public and private sector of literacy needs and available services;~~

~~2. Continuing and strengthening community-based pilot projects in both public and private sectors in urban and rural areas;~~

~~3. Continuing and strengthening programs for providing private sector employment incentives for unemployed and underemployed persons who complete appropriate literacy programs;~~

~~4. Development of a flyer to provide information regarding screening, assessment and referral resources at the state, regional and local levels;~~

~~5. Establishing the official definition for literacy in Oklahoma: The term "literacy" shall mean the ability to use such skills as reading, writing, speaking and computing, necessary to communicate and contribute effectively as family and community members, citizens, consumers and job holders, to continue the lifelong learning process;~~

~~6. Establishment of coordinated data gathering processes, including systems for tracing 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 focusing of volunteer efforts where needs are greatest;~~

~~8. Establishing Regional Literacy Coordinating Committees, using existing service delivery areas as geographical boundaries and following the membership pattern of the Literacy Initiatives Commission to coordinate literacy efforts under the guidance of the Literacy Initiatives Commission; and~~

~~9. Establishment of a Literacy Initiatives Commission coordinator to facilitate the Commission, with the Secretary of Education remaining as the Commission Chair.~~

~~D. The Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Libraries Literacy Office shall be responsible for providing technical assistance to the Literacy Initiatives Commission.~~

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8004 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created to continue until July 1, 2006, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, the Adult Literacy Services Advisory Committee. The duties of the Committee shall be to:

1. Foster coordination and collaboration between state and local entities regarding literacy services provided to adults across the state;

2. Develop strategies for conducting effective outreach programs that target adults most in need of literacy remediation;

3. Develop strategies for recruiting and training additional volunteer tutors; and

4. Develop a comprehensive statewide literacy awareness campaign to inform functionally illiterate adults about the availability of literacy and adult basic education services across the state.

B. The Adult Literacy Services Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on or before January 1 of each year. The report shall summarize activities and accomplishments of the Committee during the past year and shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations for implementing outreach strategies developed by the Committee and a cost analysis for each recommendation.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 8005 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Adult Literacy Services Advisory Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) members:

1. The Governor shall appoint two members who are executives of business or industry;

2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member to serve as cochair of the Committee who is a member of the House of Representatives and one member who is a volunteer of a local literacy program;

3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member to serve as cochair of the Committee who is a member of the Senate and one member who is a volunteer of a local literacy program;

4. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint two members who work with a local adult basic education program and

one member who is employed in the Lifelong Learning Section of the State Department of Education;

5. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries shall appoint one member who is employed in the Literacy Resource Office of the Department of Libraries;

6. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority shall appoint one member;

7. The Director of the Center for the Study of Literacy at Northeastern State University shall appoint one member;

8. The Director of the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education shall appoint one member who is employed by the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education and who works in adult education;

9. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services shall appoint one member who is employed by the Department and is knowledgeable about adult literacy and education needs; and

10. One member who serves as President of the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition, Incorporated.

B. The Committee cochairs shall convene an organizational meeting no later than August 31, 2000, at which time the Committee may adopt rules governing its operation and elect other officers to serve the Committee. The presence of seven members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

C. Appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

D. Nonlegislative members of the Committee shall be reimbursed by the appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. Legislative members of the Committee shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

The State Department of Education shall participate in the National Adult Literacy Survey to be conducted in the year 2001 by the National Center for Education Statistics. If funding for participation in the survey is not appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose, the State Board of Education, which has the federal mandate to provide adult basic education services, shall, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, determine a fair and equitable amount to be contributed by each agency to fund the state's participation in the survey. Provided, the State Department of Education shall contribute no less than fifty percent (50%) of the cost of participation in the survey. The purpose of the state's

participation in this survey is to allow researchers to define the extent of adult literacy in Oklahoma and better describe the population of adults who are functionally illiterate. It will also enable researchers to develop baseline data regarding adult literacy that will be comparable to other states that participate in the survey.

SECTION 5. REPEALER 70 O.S. 1991, Section 8002, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. 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 19th day of May, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 23rd day of May, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate