

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. _____

By: Horner

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.6, which relates to adoption of curriculum standards; modifying legislative intent for certain core curriculum subject; prescribing certain course of instruction; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 758. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 11-103.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6 A. By February 1, 1991, the State Board of Education shall adopt curricular standards for instruction of students in the public schools of this state that are to be implemented not later than the 1993-94 school year and that are necessary to ensure there is attainment of desired levels of competencies in a variety of areas to include language, social studies and communication. ~~Such curricular standards shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of subsections B and C of Section 11-103.5 of this title.~~ All students must initially gain literacy at the elementary and secondary levels through a core curriculum. Students must develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, computing and critical thinking. They also must learn about cultures and environments - their own and those of others with whom they share the earth. Students, therefore, must study social studies, literature, languages, the arts, mathematics and science. Such curricula shall provide for the teaching of a hands-on career exploration program in cooperation with vocational-technical

education schools. The core curriculum shall be designed to teach the competencies for which twelfth grade level students shall be tested as provided in Section 1210.508 of this title, and shall be designed to prepare all students for employment and/or post secondary education.

B. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that Oklahoma history including African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and other ethnic groups in Oklahoma be included in the social studies core curriculum for purposes of this section. It is the intent of the Legislature that state funds shall be provided for the purchase of print and electronic materials, especially those developed by groups previously underserved and left out of the curriculum in the past: African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, and other ethnic groups.

All textbooks purchased with state monies and all supplemental books used in Oklahoma classrooms shall reflect the racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the nation. The State Board of Education shall prescribe courses of instruction for all students, kindergarten through twelfth grades, in social studies classes, including history, geography, civics, and sociology, that reflect the cultures of all of America's diverse peoples. It is the intent of the Legislature that state funds shall be provided to assist school districts in presenting workshops, seminars, guest lecturers, and other methods that help districts implement this act.

The State Department of Education shall audit school districts to determine compliance with this act. Failure of districts to implement this act shall result in a five percent (5%) penalty of State Aid to be withheld based on the current year's allocation.

~~B.~~ C. The State Board of Education shall provide an option for high school graduation based upon attainment of the desired levels of competencies as required in tests pursuant to the provisions of

Section 1210.508 of this title. Such option shall be in lieu of the amount of course credits earned.

~~C.~~ D. The State Board of Education shall prescribe, adopt and approve a promotion system based on the attainment by students of specified levels of competencies in each area of the core curriculum. Provided, however, that children who have individualized education plans pursuant to The Education For All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142) as amended may be exempted from the requirements of this subsection.

SECTION 1. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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