

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of certain legislation; requiring a report; creating the School State Aid Funding Study Group; stating duties of the Study Group; providing for membership, officers, staffing, and travel reimbursement; authorizing the employment of an independent consultant; requiring a report; authorizing the State Board of Education to waive certain class size penalties; limiting application of waived penalties; directing the Board to establish guidelines for application for a penalty waiver; stating criteria for guidelines; providing time limit for consideration of an application; creating the Task Force on School District Administrative Reorganization or Consolidation; stating purpose of the Task Force; requiring recommendations by a certain date; providing for membership, meetings, staffing, and travel reimbursement; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-101, which relates to teacher contracts; changing contract notification dates; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Sections 6-101.3 and 6-101.26, which relate to teacher due process procedures; modifying definition; adding definition; modifying career teacher due process hearings; providing procedure for a career teacher pretermination hearing; providing procedure for a probationary teacher hearing; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, which relates to professional development institutes; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to develop and offer certain professional development institutes; providing for certain criteria; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-152, which relates to the Academic Performance Award Program; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-189.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 291, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 6-189.1), which relates to middle level mathematics certification and endorsement; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-195.1, which relates to a continuing education program for teachers teaching mathematics; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, as amended by Section 4, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 6-204.2), which relates to the Education Leadership Oklahoma program; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 18-108, which relates to kindergarten attendance; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 26-105, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 282, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 26-105), which relates to the flexible benefit allowance for school district employees; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508E, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1210.508E), which relates to retention and remediation of certain third-grade students; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.569, which relates to the needs assessment and alternative education plan; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.710, which relates to school counselors for urban school districts; making certain legislative mandates contingent upon funding by the Legislature; providing for codification; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.