

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE BILL HB1417

By: Cargill

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1-111, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 453, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1-111), which relates to the number of hours of instruction in a school day; authorizing students to receive certain instruction off the school campus; providing for certain conditions and limitations; authorizing refusal to grant such leave time; authorizing the use of school buses for certain purposes; prohibiting denial of any reasonable request for such buses; 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. 2001, Section 1-111, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 453, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1-111), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-111. A. A school day shall consist of not less than six (6) hours devoted to school activities, except that a school day for nursery, early childhood education, kindergarten, first grade, extended day program, and alternative education programs shall be as otherwise defined by law or as defined by the State Board of Education. Except for schools operating under an extended day schedule as provided for in Section 1-109 of this title, not more than one (1) school day shall be counted for attendance purposes in any twenty-four-hour period.

B. Students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for such absence is to participate in scheduled school activities under the direction and supervision of a regular member of the faculty or

to participate in a remote internet-based course approved by the district board of education. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to provide for the implementation of remote Internet-based courses.

C. Each district board of education shall adopt policies and procedures that conform to rules for Internet-based courses as adopted by the State Board. Such policies shall include criteria for approval of the course, the appropriateness of the course for a particular student, and authorization for full-time students to enroll in Internet-based courses. Districts shall require students enrolled in Internet-based courses to participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. Students participating in Internet-based courses from a remote site will be responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access, unless the district chooses to provide the equipment. Credit may not be granted for such courses except upon approval of the State Board of Education and the district board of education.

D. Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, students absent from school in which they are regularly enrolled may be considered as being in attendance if the reason for such absence is to participate in courses off campus which instruct religion. The following conditions shall be met for the release-time for religious instruction to be authorized:

1. Students shall have the written permission of their parents or guardians in order to be released;

2. Students may be released for at least sixty (60) minutes, but not more than one hundred eighty (180) minutes per religious instruction and for not more than four (4) hours per week;

3. Religious instruction shall be off the public school premises;

4. The supervisor of the religious instruction shall report monthly to the public school principal the names of the students attending the religious instruction;

5. No school funds may be expended to finance the release-time religious instruction; and

6. No public school teacher or public school administrator shall be involved in the release-time religious instruction.

The school board may deny the privilege of release-time religious instruction to students who do not attend the religious instruction after requesting the privilege. The school board may determine the time periods to be allotted students for the release-time religious instruction in accordance with this section.

Release-time religious instruction programs may rent school buses from school districts to transport students to and from school, and no reasonable request for this purpose shall be denied.

E. The school day for kindergarten may consist of six (6) hours devoted to school activities.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

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.

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