

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2229

By: Cannaday, BigHorse and  
Pittman of the House

3 and

4 Garrison of the Senate  
5  
6

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,  
8 Section 24-152, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 83,  
9 O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 24-152),  
10 which relates to Veterans Day and Celebrate Freedom  
11 Week; requiring certain content to be grade-  
12 appropriate; requiring rules adopted by the State  
13 Board of Education to establish different grade-  
14 appropriate content and rigor for required subjects;  
15 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
16 emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-152, as  
19 amended by Section 1, Chapter 83, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007,  
20 Section 24-152), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 24-152. A. In order to educate students about the  
22 sacrifices made for freedom on behalf of this country and the values  
23 on which this country was founded, the date of November 11 is hereby  
24 designated "Veterans Day", and the week in which November 11 falls  
is hereby designated "Celebrate Freedom Week" in and for the public  
schools of this state. In any year in which the date of November 11

1 is a Saturday or Sunday or classes are not in regular session, the  
2 public schools of this state shall observe the previous school day  
3 as "Veterans Day" as provided for in this section. For purposes of  
4 this subsection, Sunday shall be considered the first day of the  
5 week.

6 B. The board of education of each public school district shall  
7 ensure that each school in its district will on Veterans Day conduct  
8 and observe an appropriate program of at least one class period  
9 remembering and honoring American veterans. In addition, schools  
10 may choose, if scheduling allows, to have a one-minute moment of  
11 silence beginning at 11:00 a.m. on November 11 of each year. The  
12 benefit of such activity, in addition to honoring American veterans,  
13 is to serve to educate students about the termination of World War I  
14 at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, which was first recognized by  
15 United States President Woodrow Wilson on the first anniversary of  
16 the truce in a proclamation eulogizing fallen Allied soldiers and  
17 referring to November 11 as Armistice Day.

18 C. By December 31, 2007, the State Board of Education shall  
19 adopt rules which require each public school district in the state  
20 to include, as a part of a social studies class, during Celebrate  
21 Freedom Week or during another full school week as determined by the  
22 board of education, grade-appropriate instruction concerning the  
23 intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence  
24 and the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in

1 their historical contexts. The religious references in the writings  
2 of the founding fathers shall not be censored. The rules shall  
3 require ~~the~~ appropriate grade level study of the Declaration of  
4 Independence to include the study of the relationship of the ideas  
5 expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including  
6 the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as  
7 a nation of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of  
8 the United States Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which  
9 led to the Emancipation Proclamation ~~and~~, the women's suffrage  
10 movement, and the civil rights movement and the passage of civil  
11 rights legislation.

12 D. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant  
13 to subsection C of this section shall establish different levels of  
14 content and rigor of the subject matter required to be covered  
15 during Celebrate Freedom Week that is appropriate for the different  
16 grade levels and that meet state and national standards.

17 E. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant  
18 to subsection C of this section shall also provide that during  
19 Celebrate Freedom Week or another week of instruction selected by  
20 the board of education, students in grades three through twelve  
21 study and recite the text quoted below:

22 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are  
23 created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain  
24 unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the

1 pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are  
2 instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of  
3 the governed."

4 ~~E.~~ F. Students may be excused from the recitation of the text  
5 set forth in subsection D of this section, if:

6 1. The parent or guardian of the student submits to the school  
7 district a written request that the student be excused;

8 2. As determined by the school district, the student has a  
9 conscientious objection to the recitation; or

10 3. The student is the child of a representative of a foreign  
11 government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic  
12 immunity.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

14 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
15 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 27th day of February,  
2 2008.

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5 Presiding Officer of the House of  
6 Representatives

7 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

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10 Presiding Officer of the Senate

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