

1 ENGROSSED SENATE AMENDMENT
TO

2 ENGROSSED HOUSE
3 BILL NO. 2321

By: Russ, Johnson, Thompson and
Billy of the House

4 and

5 Ivester of the Senate

6
7
8
9 An Act relating to schools; directing the State Board
of Education to adopt curriculum standards for
10 certain academic study of the Christian Bible
courses; specifying standards meet certain
11 requirements; providing for implementation of the
course by public school districts; requiring
12 personnel to meet certification requirements;
prohibiting assignment of personnel based on certain
13 beliefs or affiliation; establishing conditions for
teaching the course; directing the State Textbook
14 Committee to incorporate certain conditions when
evaluating textbooks; providing for codification; and
15 providing an effective date.

16
17 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Page 1, strike the title, enacting clause
and entire bill and insert

18
19 "An Act relating to schools; allowing school districts
to offer elective courses in Hebrew Scripture and New
20 Testament; stating purposes; providing for primary
texts; providing exception; specifying guidelines;
21 requiring certain teacher certification; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

24

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.11 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. A school district may offer to students in grade nine or
5 above:

6 1. An elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
7 and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its
8 impact; or

9 2. An elective course that combines the courses described in
10 paragraph 1 of this subsection.

11 B. The purposes of courses authorized by this section are to:

12 1. Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters,
13 poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding
14 contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music,
15 mores, oratory, and public policy; and

16 2. Familiarize students with, as applicable:

17 a. the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
18 Testament,

19 b. the history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament,

20 c. the literary style and structure of the Hebrew
21 Scriptures or New Testament, and

22 d. the influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
23 Testament on law, history, government, literature,
24 art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

1 C. The Bible shall be the primary text of the course and may be
2 supplemented with additional resources. The primary text for the
3 course will be a parallel translation Bible or multi-translation
4 Bible that uses more than one translation for side-by-side
5 comparison chosen by the school district. However, a student may
6 not be required to use a specific translation as the sole text of
7 the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament and may use as the basic
8 textbook a different translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
9 Testament from that chosen by the district board of education or the
10 student's teacher.

11 D. A course offered pursuant to this section shall follow
12 applicable law and all federal and state guidelines in maintaining
13 religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse religious views,
14 traditions, and perspectives of students in the school district. A
15 course offered pursuant to this section shall not endorse, favor, or
16 promote, or disfavor or show hostility toward, any particular
17 religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective. Nothing in
18 this section is intended to violate any provision of the United
19 States Constitution or federal law, the Oklahoma Constitution or any
20 state law, or any rules or guidelines provided by the United States
21 Department of Education or the State Department of Education.

22 E. A teacher of a course offered pursuant to this section must
23 be certified to teach social studies or literature.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010."

1 Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 2010.

2
3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2010.

7
8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives