

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED
5 SENATE BILL NO. 1338

By: Ivester of the Senate

and

6 Russ of the House

7
8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 [schools - elective courses - Hebrew Scriptures and

11 New Testament - codification -

12 effective date]

13
14
15 ~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

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

19 A. Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, independent school
20 districts may offer to students in grade nine or above:

21 1. An elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
22 and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its
23 impact; or

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

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

4 1. Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters,
5 poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding
6 contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music,
7 mores, oratory, and public policy; and

8 2. Familiarize students with, as applicable:

9 a. the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
10 Testament,

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

12 c. the literary style and structure of the Hebrew
13 Scriptures or New Testament, and

14 d. the influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
15 Testament on law, history, government, literature,
16 art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

17 C. A student shall not be required to use a specific
18 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
19 Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different translation
20 of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from that chosen by the
21 district board of education or the student's teacher.

22 D. A course offered pursuant to this section shall follow
23 applicable law and all federal and state guidelines in maintaining
24 religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse religious views,

1 traditions, and perspectives of students in the school district. A
2 course offered pursuant to this section shall not endorse, favor, or
3 promote, or disfavor or show hostility toward, any particular
4 religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective. Nothing in
5 this section is intended to violate any provision of the United
6 States Constitution or federal law, the Oklahoma Constitution or any
7 state law, or any rules or guidelines provided by the United States
8 Department of Education or the State Department of Education.

9 E. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a district
10 board of education from offering a course, other than the courses
11 authorized by this section, in the academic study of the Hebrew
12 Scriptures, the New Testament, or both for elective credit toward
13 high school graduation.

14 F. The State Board of Education shall require no additional
15 funds for its approval authority as required by this section.

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

17

18 52-2-10609 KB 04/08/10

19

20

21

22

23

24