

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2321

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

3 and

4 Ivester of the Senate

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

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

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

A. The State Board of Education shall adopt curricular
standards for an elective course or courses that may be offered to
students in the public schools of this state consisting of a
nonsectarian, nonreligious academic study of the Christian Bible and

1 its influence on literature, art, music, culture and politics. The
2 curriculum standards shall meet the academic rigor and standards of
3 other elective courses approved by the Board and shall meet the
4 requirements of the Constitutions of the United States and the State
5 of Oklahoma.

6 B. A public school district that elects to offer an academic
7 study of the Christian Bible course shall implement the course in
8 accordance with the Constitutions of the United States and the State
9 of Oklahoma, including the manner in which the course is taught in
10 the classroom and the assignment of school district personnel
11 teaching the course. Personnel assigned to teach the course shall
12 meet all certification requirements. In addition, no person shall
13 be assigned to teach the course based in whole or in part on any
14 religious test, profession of faith or lack of faith, prior or
15 present religious affiliation or lack of affiliation, or criteria
16 involving particular beliefs or lack of beliefs about the Christian
17 Bible.

18 C. An academic study of the Christian Bible course offered by a
19 public school district shall:

20 1. Be taught in an objective and nondevotional manner with no
21 attempt made to indoctrinate students as to either the truth or
22 falsity of the biblical materials or texts from other religious or
23 cultural traditions;

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