

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2927

By: Coody, Fields, Blackwell,
Peterson, Kern and Cannaday
of the House

3
4 and

5 Ford of the Senate

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7
8 (schools - emergency exemptions - criteria for a
9 financial crisis - codification -
10 emergency)

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-129 of Title 70, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. In addition to granting exemptions as provided for in the
18 Educational Deregulation Act, the State Board of Education may grant
19 emergency exemptions to any or all school districts from any
20 educational-related statutory and regulatory requirement which the
21 Board determines is necessary.

22 B. The Board may grant emergency exemptions for the fiscal year
23 ending June 30, 2011, and any other year upon a determination by the
24 Board that a school district or all school districts in the state

1 are experiencing a financial crisis. For purposes of this section a
2 financial crisis shall mean a school district or all school
3 districts in the state has a reduction in total revenue from the
4 preceding fiscal year. The Board may establish additional criteria
5 for defining a financial crisis as deemed necessary.

6 C. The Board may grant an emergency exemption on an individual
7 school site basis, a school-district-wide basis or may grant a
8 statewide emergency exemption for all school districts in the state.
9 Individual school site or school district emergency exemptions shall
10 be considered upon application by the school district. Prior to
11 submission to the Board, an application for an individual school
12 site or school district emergency exemption shall be approved by
13 more than fifty percent (50%) of the certified employees employed at
14 the grade level, in the program, at the school site or in the
15 district as applicable. Statewide emergency exemptions may be
16 initiated by application of five or more school districts or upon
17 the initiative of the Board.

18 D. An emergency exemption from any educational-related
19 statutory or regulatory requirement may be granted if the Board
20 determines that the requirement is affecting the ability of a school
21 district to maintain effective educational programming. A school
22 district or school site shall not be granted an emergency exemption
23 from any federal educational-related requirements, health and safety
24 provisions, teacher salary, retirement or health insurance

1 requirements, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, the Oklahoma
2 Educational Indicators Program, teacher preparation, examination,
3 licensure, certification, residency and professional development
4 system and curricular standards for the instruction of students.

5 E. Emergency exemptions shall be granted for no longer than one
6 (1) year. The Board shall review each emergency exemption that has
7 been granted prior to expiration to determine if a financial crisis
8 still exists and if the exemption shall be extended for one (1)
9 additional year. The Board may extend an emergency exemption more
10 than one time, as long as a financial crisis exists.

11 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate