

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1338

By: Ivester of the Senate
and
Russ of the House

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7 [schools - elective courses - Hebrew Scriptures and
8 New Testament - codification -
9 effective date]

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

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

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

17 1. An elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
18 and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its
19 impact; or

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

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

23 1. Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters,
24 poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding

1 contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music,
2 mores, oratory, and public policy; and

3 2. Familiarize students with, as applicable:

- 4 a. the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
5 Testament,
- 6 b. the history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament,
- 7 c. the literary style and structure of the Hebrew
8 Scriptures or New Testament, and
- 9 d. the influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
10 Testament on law, history, government, literature,
11 art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.

12 C. A student shall not be required to use a specific
13 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New
14 Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different translation
15 of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from that chosen by the
16 district board of education or the student's teacher.

17 D. A course offered pursuant to this section shall use course
18 materials provided by the National Council on Bible Curriculum in
19 Public Schools and shall follow applicable law and all federal and
20 state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and
21 accommodating the diverse religious views, traditions, and
22 perspectives of students in the school district. A course offered
23 pursuant to this section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or
24 disfavor or show hostility toward, any particular religion or

1 nonreligious faith or religious perspective. Nothing in this
2 section is intended to violate any provision of the United States
3 Constitution or federal law, the Oklahoma Constitution or any state
4 law, or any rules or guidelines provided by the United States
5 Department of Education or the State Department of Education.

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

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

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

14 Passed the Senate the 4th day of March, 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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18 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,

19 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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