

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2009

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 1591

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1591 - By: COODY of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508B, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 1210.508B), which relates to the Reading Sufficiency Act; requiring all reading instruction in certain grades to include certain elements of instruction; listing elements; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.508B, as last
2 amended by Section 1, Chapter 146, O.S.L. 2006 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section
3 1210.508B), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 1210.508B A. The Legislature finds that it is essential for children in the
5 public schools to read early and well in elementary school. The Legislature further finds
6 that clear and visible goals, assessments to determine the reading level at each
7 elementary school, annual measurements of elementary school reading improvement,
8 and accountability in each level of the educational system will result in a significant
9 increase in the number of children reading at or above grade level.

10 B. The purpose of the Reading Sufficiency Act is to ensure that each child attains
11 the necessary reading skills by completion of the third grade which will enable that

1 student to continue development of reading skills and to succeed throughout school and
2 life.

3 C. Each public school district in this state shall ensure that a majority of the
4 instructional time each day of the school year in kindergarten through third grade is
5 focused on reading and mathematics. The State Board of Education shall encourage
6 school districts to integrate the teaching of the other curricular areas in the Priority
7 Academic Student Skills (PASS) adopted by the Board with the instruction of reading
8 and mathematics. All teachers of reading in the public schools in this state in
9 kindergarten through third grade shall incorporate into instruction the five elements of
10 reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary,
11 and comprehension.

12 D. The reading goal for Oklahoma public schools is as follows: By July 1, 2008, and
13 each year thereafter, all third-grade students will read at or above grade level by the end
14 of their third-grade year, excluding up to fifteen percent (15%) of those students who
15 have an individualized education program (IEP), pursuant to the Individuals with
16 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and excluding those students who are English
17 language learners who have been determined not to be proficient in English as defined by
18 a state-designated English proficiency assessment. To achieve the reading goal, each
19 public elementary school shall:

- 20 1. Determine its baseline no later than September 1, 2005, which shall be the
21 percentage of students reading at or above third-grade level as determined by the

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 percentage of students scoring satisfactory or above on the third-grade criterion-
2 referenced test in reading, administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title; and

3 2. Set and achieve annual improvement goals necessary to progress from the
4 baseline established in 2005 to the reading goal by July 1, 2008. The annual
5 improvement goals shall be included in the district's reading sufficiency plan required in
6 Section 1210.508C of this title.

7 E. The State Board of Education shall recognize schools and districts that attain or
8 make progress toward achieving the reading goal and shall provide technical assistance
9 to schools and districts that do not make progress toward the reading goal. The district
10 reading sufficiency plan shall be submitted to the State Board if the district has any
11 schools that are not achieving the required annual improvement goals pursuant to this
12 section.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

14 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
15 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
16 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-26-09
18 - DO PASS, As Amended.