

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Monday, March 29, 2010

Committee Substitute for  
ENGROSSED  
Senate Bill No. 1617

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1617 - By:  
HALLIGAN of the Senate and DENNEY AND KERN of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 1, Chapter 195, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 1210.544), which relates to alternate governance arrangements; requiring certain school districts to submit a compliance plan; requiring the State Department of Education to make an annual report of district plans to the Legislature; creating the Oklahoma School Principal Training Task Force; stating purpose of the Task Force; listing specific topics of study; providing for membership; providing for cochairs, meetings, appointments, quorums and vacancies; providing for staff support; providing for travel reimbursement; requiring Task Force to submit a report by certain date; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 195, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S.  
2 Supp. 2009, Section 1210.544), is amended to read as follows:

3 Section 1210.544 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, for schools  
4 that are identified for school improvement by the State Board of Education for four (4)  
5 consecutive years, the district board of education shall implement one of the following  
6 alternative governance arrangements for the school in accordance with subparagraph (B)  
7 of subsection (b)(8) of Section 1116 of Public Law No. 107-110:

- 1           1. Reopening the school as a public charter school;
- 2           2. Replacing all or most of the school staff assigned to the school, which may
- 3 include the principal, who are relevant to the failure to make adequate yearly progress
- 4 and by transferring the replaced staff to another school or by dismissing or not
- 5 reemploying the replaced staff in accordance with the provisions of the Teacher Due
- 6 Process Act of 1990;
- 7           3. Entering into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company,
- 8 with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, to operate the public school;
- 9           4. Turning the operation of the school over to the State Board of Education; or
- 10          5. Any other major restructuring of the governance arrangement of the school that
- 11 makes fundamental reforms, such as significant changes in the staffing and governance
- 12 of the school, to improve student academic achievement in the school and that has
- 13 substantial promise of enabling the school to make adequate yearly progress. If the
- 14 chosen governance arrangement does not produce adequate yearly progress within two
- 15 (2) years from the date of implementation of the restructured governance arrangement,
- 16 the State Board of Education shall assume control of the school as provided for in
- 17 subsection B of this section.

18           B. For any school that fails to comply with the provisions of subsection A of this  
19 section by the end of the school year following its identification for school improvement  
20 for four (4) consecutive years, the State Board of Education shall assume control of the  
21 management and operations of the school, including control of the staff assigned to the  
22 school. The Board shall retain all funds that otherwise would have been allocated to the

1 school district based on the average daily membership of the school which shall be used  
2 to operate the school.

3 C. 1. Each school district subject to the provisions of subsection A of this section  
4 shall submit a plan for compliance with this section to the State Department of  
5 Education, in a manner prescribed by the Department.

6 2. Beginning December 31, 2010, and annually each year thereafter, the State  
7 Department of Education shall submit a report of the district plans received as provided  
8 in paragraph 1 of this subsection to the members of the Senate and House Education  
9 Committees.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the  
11 Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

12 A. There is hereby created until December 31, 2010, the Oklahoma School Principal  
13 Training Task Force. The Task Force shall conduct a review of the current training  
14 requirements for principal certification in Oklahoma and study ways to improve and  
15 incorporate more leadership training into the requirements.

16 B. The Task Force shall study topics including, but not limited to, the following:

17 1. The current school principal certification requirements;

18 2. The type and depth of proven leadership skills needed for a school principal to be  
19 effective; and

20 3. Training programs, methods, or models used for developing leadership skills in  
21 school principals.

22 C. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- 1           1. The Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Common Education;
- 2           2. The Vice-chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Common
- 3 Education;
- 4           3. The Chair of the House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget
- 5 Subcommittee on Education;
- 6           4. The Vice-chair of the House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget
- 7 Subcommittee on Education;
- 8           5. The Chair of the Oklahoma State Senate Committee on Education;
- 9           6. The Vice-chair of the Oklahoma State Senate Committee on Education;
- 10          7. The Chair of the Oklahoma State Senate Appropriations and Budget
- 11 Subcommittee on Education;
- 12          8. The Vice-chair of the Oklahoma State Senate Appropriations and Budget
- 13 Subcommittee on Education;
- 14          9. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;
- 15          10. The Chancellor of Higher Education, or designee;
- 16          11. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation,
- 17 or designee;
- 18          12. A faculty member in the teacher education department of a comprehensive
- 19 higher education institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
- 20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

1           13. A faculty member in the teacher education department of a regional higher  
2 education institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education appointed  
3 by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate; and

4           14. A representative of a statewide organization representing public school  
5 superintendents, appointed by the Governor.

6           D. The chairs of the Oklahoma State Senate Appropriations and Budget  
7 Subcommittee on Education and the House of Representatives Appropriations and  
8 Budget Subcommittee on Education shall serve as cochairs of the Task Force. The  
9 cochairs of the Task Force shall call the first meeting of the Task Force. Appointments to  
10 the Task Force shall be made by September 1, 2010. Meetings of the Task Force shall be  
11 held at the call of either cochair of the Task Force. Members shall serve at the pleasure  
12 of their appointing authorities. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall  
13 constitute a quorum to transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the  
14 remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the Task Force. A vacancy on the  
15 Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

16           E. Staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the staff of the House of  
17 Representatives and State Senate. The State Department of Education, the Oklahoma  
18 State Regents for Higher Education, and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher  
19 Preparation shall provide support and information as requested by the Task Force.

20           F. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the  
21 Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1           1. Legislative members shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 456 of Title  
2 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3           2. State employee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the  
4 performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State  
5 Travel Reimbursement Act; and

6           3. All other members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the  
7 performance of their duties by the appointing authority in accordance with the State  
8 Travel Reimbursement Act.

9           G. The Task Force shall submit a report by December 31, 2010, to the Governor,  
10 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives. The report shall include findings for any statutory or regulatory  
12 changes necessary to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

13           SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2010.

14           SECTION 4. 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 03-25-10  
18 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.