

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 2227

By: Jett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Teacher Bill  
8 of Rights Act; stating purpose; granting certain  
9 rights to teachers; listing conferred rights;  
10 prohibiting school districts from establishing  
11 certain policies; limiting construction of  
12 provisions; directing school districts to distribute  
13 copies of the Teacher Bill of Rights Act to certain  
14 persons and to post copies by certain means;  
15 providing for codification; providing for  
16 noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
19 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

20 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher Bill of  
21 Rights Act".

22 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-101.7 of Title 70, unless  
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Respecting the authority of teachers is essential to  
creating an environment conducive to learning, effective instruction

1 in the classroom, and proper administration of public schools. To  
2 maintain and protect that authority, it is important that teachers,  
3 administrators, parents, and students are fully informed of the  
4 various rights conferred upon teachers pursuant to this section,  
5 which are:

6 1. A teacher has the right to teach free from the fear of  
7 frivolous lawsuits, including the right to qualified immunity and to  
8 a legal defense, and to indemnification by the employing school  
9 district, pursuant to provisions of the Governmental Tort Claims  
10 Act, for actions taken by the teacher in the performance of the  
11 duties of employment;

12 2. A teacher has the right to appropriately discipline students  
13 in accordance with Section 24-100.4 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
14 Statutes and any school district policy;

15 3. A teacher has the right to remove any persistently  
16 disruptive student from the classroom when the behavior of the  
17 student prevents the orderly instruction of other students or when  
18 the student displays impudent or defiant behavior, and to place the  
19 student in the custody of the principal or a designee of the  
20 principal pursuant to the school district policy;

21 4. A teacher has the right to have the professional judgment  
22 and discretion of the teacher respected by school and school  
23 district administrators in any disciplinary action taken by the  
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1 teacher in accordance with school and district policy and with  
2 Section 24-101.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

3 5. A teacher has the right to teach in a safe, secure, and  
4 orderly environment that is conducive to learning and free from  
5 recognized dangers or hazards that are causing or likely to cause  
6 serious injury;

7 6. A teacher has the right to be treated with civility and  
8 respect;

9 7. A teacher has the right to communicate with and to request  
10 the participation of parents in appropriate student disciplinary  
11 decisions pursuant to the school district policy;

12 8. A teacher has the right to be free from excessively  
13 burdensome disciplinary paperwork; and

14 9. A resident teacher has the right to receive leadership and  
15 support in accordance with Section 6-195 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes, including the assignment of a qualified, experienced  
17 mentor who commits to helping the resident teacher become a  
18 competent, confident professional in the classroom and offers  
19 support and assistance as needed to meet performance standards and  
20 professional expectations.

21 B. A school district board of education shall not establish  
22 policies that prevent teachers from exercising the rights provided  
23 in this section or in any other provision of law.

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1 C. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to  
2 supersede any other state law, State Board of Education regulation,  
3 or other school district policy enacted or adopted relative to the  
4 discipline of students.

5 D. Each school district board of education shall provide a copy  
6 of this section to all teachers at the beginning of each school  
7 year. Each school district shall also post a copy of the rights  
8 provided in this section in a prominent place in every school and  
9 administrative building it operates and provide a copy to parents or  
10 legal guardians of all students enrolled in the school district in a  
11 form and manner approved by the board of education. Each school  
12 district and every school under its jurisdiction that maintains an  
13 Internet website shall post on the website a copy of the Teacher  
14 Bill of Rights Act required by this section.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

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