

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED
5 SENATE BILL NO. 143

By: Ford of the Senate

and

6 Denney of the House

7
8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
11 Section 1210.515, as amended by Section 3, Chapter
12 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section
13 1210.515), which relates to reading proficiency tests
14 for driver licenses; allowing submission of reading
15 proficiency tests from other states; and providing an
16 effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.515, as
19 amended by Section 3, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010,
20 Section 1210.515), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1210.515 A. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2
22 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma
23 Statutes, any person under the age of eighteen (18) years wishing to
24 apply for a driver license or permit shall successfully demonstrate

1 a satisfactory reading ability at the eighth-grade reading level by
2 meeting the following criteria:

3 1. A student enrolled in a public school shall successfully
4 complete the reading portion of the state criterion-referenced test
5 offered in the eighth grade. Following the administration of this
6 test in the eighth grade, any student not successfully completing
7 the reading portion shall be assigned a plan of remedial reading.
8 Any student not successful in completing the reading portion of the
9 state criterion-referenced test may take a comparable alternative
10 reading proficiency test in order to satisfy the criteria for a
11 driver license or permit. Alternative reading proficiency tests
12 shall be approved by the State Department of Education. Subsequent
13 successful completion of an alternative reading proficiency test
14 shall serve to satisfy any test retaking requirement which may be
15 required for the reading portion of the state criterion-referenced
16 test in the eighth grade in the Oklahoma School Testing Program.
17 School districts shall notify, in writing, each student who takes
18 the reading portion of the state criterion-referenced test for the
19 eighth grade or who takes an alternative reading proficiency test
20 and the student's parent or legal guardian of the test results. If
21 the student fails to perform satisfactorily on the test, the notice
22 shall inform the student of the reading proficiency driver license
23 requirement and the school's remediation plan for the student. Upon
24 the student's successful completion of the test, the school shall

1 furnish the student with the documentation needed for the driver
2 license application in Oklahoma;

3 2. Unless alternatively documented according to the provisions
4 of subsection C of this section, students under the age of eighteen
5 (18) years shall successfully complete a reading proficiency test
6 approved by the State Department of Education; and

7 3. Any student who wishes to apply for a restricted license to
8 operate a motorcycle may take an alternative reading proficiency
9 test, subject to the provisions of this section.

10 B. Alternative reading proficiency tests shall be offered by
11 testing sites, which shall include the public schools, at least four
12 (4) times per calendar year, and may include any of the following
13 which ~~these~~ choose to participate: the technology center school
14 districts, Regional Education Service Centers, colleges, accredited
15 private schools, and other sites approved by the State Department of
16 Education. A student may take the test as often as wished, subject
17 to the provisions of this section. Testing sites shall provide the
18 first alternative reading proficiency test for each student at no
19 cost to the student. Students may be assessed a fee not to exceed
20 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) by the testing site for each subsequent
21 alternative reading proficiency test taken.

22 C. A school district shall provide for alternative
23 documentation of reading proficiency for the purposes of paragraph 2
24 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma

1 Statutes for any student with an individualized education program
2 that, at a minimum, is in an area related to reading. The
3 alternative documentation shall be furnished to such student who is
4 performing satisfactorily in reading pursuant to the student's
5 individualized education program. Parents of disabled students
6 educated pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of Article XIII of
7 the Oklahoma Constitution may satisfy the requirement of paragraph 2
8 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma
9 Statutes by signing an affidavit that, based upon their best
10 information and belief, their child would qualify for an
11 individualized education program that, at a minimum, is in an area
12 related to reading if enrolled in public school, and that in their
13 judgment their child is performing satisfactorily in reading and is
14 therefore academically qualified to satisfy the requirement of
15 paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the
16 Oklahoma Statutes.

17 D. Any person under the age of eighteen (18) who has previously
18 completed and successfully passed a reading proficiency test from
19 another state may submit the results of such test to the State
20 Department of Education for verification and approval. The State
21 Department of Education shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of
22 the reading proficiency results submitted by the person to verify
23 that the reading proficiency requirements from the other state are
24 equivalent or comparable to the reading proficiency requirements

1 established for Oklahoma students pursuant to this section. Upon
2 verification and approval by the State Department of Education, the
3 Department shall furnish the person with the documentation needed
4 for the driver license application in Oklahoma. If the reading
5 proficiency documentation submitted by the person is disapproved by
6 the Department, the person may take an alternative reading
7 proficiency test as provided for in subsection B of this section.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2011.

9

10 53-1-7587 GRS 04/13/11

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24