

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1987

By: Hoskin

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 1210.515, as amended by Section 3, Chapter
9 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section
10 1210.515), which relates to reading proficiency tests
11 for driver licenses; allowing submission of reading
12 proficiency tests from other states; and providing an
13 effective date.

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

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

18 Section 1210.515 A. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2
19 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma
20 Statutes, any person under the age of eighteen (18) years wishing to
21 apply for a driver license or permit shall successfully demonstrate
22 a satisfactory reading ability at the eighth-grade reading level by
23 meeting the following criteria:

24 1. A student enrolled in a public school shall successfully
complete the reading portion of the state criterion-referenced test

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

23 2. Unless alternatively documented according to the provisions
24 of subsection C of this section, students under the age of eighteen

1 (18) years shall successfully complete a reading proficiency test
2 approved by the State Department of Education; and

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

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

18 C. A school district shall provide for alternative
19 documentation of reading proficiency for the purposes of paragraph 2
20 of subsection A of Section 6-107.3 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma
21 Statutes for any student with an individualized education program
22 that, at a minimum, is in an area related to reading. The
23 alternative documentation shall be furnished to such student who is
24 performing satisfactorily in reading pursuant to the student's

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

13 D. Any person under the age of eighteen (18) who has previously
14 completed and successfully passed a reading proficiency test from
15 another state may submit the results of such test to the State
16 Department of Education for verification and approval. The State
17 Department of Education shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of
18 the reading proficiency results submitted by the person to verify
19 that the reading proficiency requirements from the other state are
20 equivalent or comparable to the reading proficiency requirements
21 established for Oklahoma students pursuant to this section. Upon
22 verification and approval by the State Department of Education, the
23 Department shall furnish the person with the documentation needed
24 for the driver license application in Oklahoma. If the reading

1 proficiency documentation submitted by the person is disapproved by
2 the Department, the person may take an alternative reading
3 proficiency test as provided for in subsection B of this section.

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

5
6 53-1-5685 GRS 01/09/11
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24