

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1742

By: Brecheen

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school curriculum; creating the  
8 Oklahoma Science Education Act; providing short  
9 title; providing legislative intent; providing for  
10 the assistance of teachers in teaching scientific  
11 curriculum; promoting critical thinking; allowing for  
12 open discussion of scientific theories; directing  
13 teachers to teach certain material; allowing  
supplemental material to be taught; prohibiting the  
promotion of a particular belief system; directing  
the State Board of Education to adopt rules;  
providing for codification; providing for  
noncodification; providing an effective date; and  
declaring an emergency.

14  
15  
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.12 of Title 70, unless  
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
21 Science Education Act".

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

1 Recognizing the importance of critical thinking, logical  
2 analysis and objective discussion in education it is the intent of  
3 the Legislature to foster an environment in public schools where  
4 such learning occurs. This act is modeled on a Louisiana law which  
5 has not been invalidated by the highest court of the State of  
6 Louisiana or a federal district court. Legal challenges to academic  
7 freedom bills have historically alleged that such bills are intended  
8 to allow the teaching of creationism or intelligent design. This  
9 bill does not propose that schools teach creationism or intelligent  
10 design, rather, it is the intent to foster an environment of  
11 critical thinking in schools including a scientific critique of the  
12 theory of evolution.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.13 of Title 70, unless  
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The State Board of Education, upon the request of a school  
17 district board of education, shall allow and assist teachers,  
18 principals, and school administrators in creating an environment  
19 within the public school system that promotes critical thinking,  
20 logical analysis, open and objective discussion of scientific  
21 theories including, but not limited to, evolution, the origin of  
22 life, global warming, and human cloning. Assistance shall include  
23 support and guidance for teachers regarding effective ways to help  
24 students understand, analyze, critique, and objectively review

1 scientific theories being studied, including those enumerated in  
2 this subsection.

3 B. A teacher shall teach the material presented in the standard  
4 science textbook and may use supplemental textbooks and  
5 instructional materials to help students understand, analyze,  
6 critique, and review scientific theories in an objective manner.

7 C. This act shall not be construed to promote any religious  
8 doctrine or set of religious beliefs.

9 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement  
10 the provisions of this act.

11 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

12 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
13 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16

17 53-2-2218 ALM 1/19/2012 5:01:00 PM

18

19

20

21

22

23

24