

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2497

By: Casey and Kern of the House

and

Stanislawski of the Senate

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9                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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11           An Act relating to schools; directing the State  
12           Department of Education to conduct a study of reading  
13           instruction and retention of students; stating  
14           purpose of the study; allowing the Department to  
15           contract with certain entities; specifying  
16           information to be gathered for the study; requiring  
17           the Department to issue a report by a certain date;  
18           specifying the inclusion of certain recommendations;  
19           requiring student data to be aggregated; providing  
20           for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508G of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A.   The State Department of Education shall conduct a study of  
reading instruction and the retention of students in the third grade  
based on reading assessments administered pursuant to Section

1 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The purpose of the  
2 study shall be to determine the reasons why some students in the  
3 state have not been successful in acquiring the appropriate grade-  
4 level reading skills, to identify the best practices available to  
5 help students become successful readers and to implement those best  
6 practices in schools statewide. The Department may contract with a  
7 higher education institution or other entity or consultant to assist  
8 in the study, contingent upon the availability of funding.

9 B. The State Department of Education shall:

10 1. Gather data and complete an assessment of the type of  
11 reading instruction practices and methods currently being used by  
12 school districts in the state; and

13 2. Gather data on students who have been assessed pursuant to  
14 Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and have been  
15 found not to be reading at the appropriate grade level by the third  
16 grade including, but not limited to:

- 17 a. socioeconomic information,
- 18 b. access to reading resources outside of school, and
- 19 c. screening for and identification of learning  
20 disabilities.

21 C. After gathering and analyzing the data as provided for in  
22 this section, the State Department of Education shall issue a report  
23 no later than December 31, 2015, to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
24 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the

1 Senate. In addition to other information and recommendations, the  
2 report shall also include recommendations on legislative changes  
3 that need to be made to the third-grade retention requirements in  
4 the Reading Sufficiency Act and any other requirements in the act.

5 D. Any student data contained in the report shall be aggregated  
6 so that individual students cannot be identified.

7 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
8 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/11/2014  
13 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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