

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1805

By: Standridge

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma
8 American Heritage Education Act; providing short
9 title; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-106.1, which
10 relates to classroom use of founding documents;
11 requiring display of the United States of America
12 motto; allowing principals and teachers to use
13 certain materials; allowing teachers, principals, and
14 administrators to display certain materials;
15 requiring public school library collections to ensure
16 access to certain material; allowing students to
17 include references to certain materials; prohibiting
18 discrimination, penalty or reward based on students'
19 use of certain materials; providing for
20 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
21 declaring an emergency.

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

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

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
American Heritage Education Act".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-106.1, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 24-106.1. A. Principals and teachers in each public
school in this state may display in each classroom, school

1 auditorium, and school cafeteria under their supervision, the
2 following motto of the United States of America: "E PLURIBUS UNUM
3 (Out of Many One)" and "IN GOD WE TRUST". For purposes of this
4 subsection, "classroom" means any room of a public school where
5 instruction takes place.

6 B. Each school district in the state shall permit a principal
7 or teacher to utilize in a public school building, classroom, or at
8 any public school event any grade-level-appropriate excerpts or
9 portions of the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or
10 records relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the
11 United States or the State of Oklahoma including, but not limited
12 to, the:

- 13 1. Mayflower Compact;
- 14 2. Declaration of Independence;
- 15 3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of
16 Oklahoma;
- 17 4. Federalist Papers;
- 18 5. Pledge of Allegiance;
- 19 6. National anthem;
- 20 7. Presidential records and speeches;
- 21 8. Acts and published records of Congress; ~~and~~
- 22 9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records;
- 23 10. Common Sense by Thomas Paine;
- 24 11. Executive orders of the presidents of the United States;

1 12. Frederick Douglass' speech entitled "What to the Slave Is
2 the Fourth of July?";

3 13. Appeal by David Walker;

4 14. Chief Seattle's 1852 letter to the United States
5 government; and

6 15. Any other document of historical significance relating to
7 the founding of the United States or the State of Oklahoma
8 regardless of its religious content or the political correctness of
9 certain references.

10 C. School districts shall not limit or restrain instruction in
11 American or Oklahoma state history or heritage based on religious
12 references in documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or the
13 materials described in subsection B of this section. Teachers,
14 principals and administrators may display any or all of the
15 materials described in subsection B of this section. These and any
16 other materials shall be used for educational purposes only and not
17 to establish or promote any religion.

18 D. Each public school library or equivalent facility shall
19 ensure access, by electronic or other means, to the following: the
20 United States Constitution, the motto of the United States of
21 America, the national anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, the
22 Declaration of Independence, the Mayflower Compact, the Federalist
23 Papers, or Common Sense by Thomas Paine.

1 E. Public school students may include references to any of the
2 materials described in subsection B of this section in homework,
3 artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from
4 discrimination based on religious content. Students shall not be
5 penalized or rewarded based on the religious content of their work.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

7 SECTION 4. 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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