

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2525

By: Casey of the House

and

Thompson of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 3-104.4, as last amended by Section 1,  
9 Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section  
10 3-104.4), which relates to accreditation standards;  
11 prohibiting the withdrawal or denial of accreditation  
12 for failure to meet certain media program standards  
13 until certain conditions are met; changing effect of  
14 certain conditions upon reduction of certain amount;  
15 prohibiting the State Board of Education from  
16 assessing financial accreditation penalties until  
17 certain conditions are met; changing effect of  
18 certain conditions upon reduction of certain amount;  
19 providing for certain calculation; amending 70 O.S.  
20 2011, Section 3-167, as last amended by Section 3,  
21 Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section  
22 3-167), which relates to advisory councils; exempting  
23 school districts from certain advisory council  
24 requirements until certain conditions are met;  
changing effect of certain conditions upon reduction  
of certain amount; providing an effective date; and  
declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-104.4, as  
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.  
2015, Section 3-104.4), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-104.4 A. On or before February 1, 1991, the State  
2 Board of Education shall adopt standards for the accreditation of  
3 the public schools in this state according to the requirements of  
4 this act, to be effective as set forth in this act. The  
5 accreditation standards shall incorporate the curricular standards  
6 established pursuant to Section 11-103.6 of this title. The  
7 accreditation standards shall equal or exceed the accreditation  
8 standards for schools promulgated by the North Central Association  
9 of Colleges and Schools to the extent that the standards are  
10 consistent with an academic results oriented approach to  
11 accreditation, excluding those standards which deal with affective  
12 behavior to the extent the adoption of the standards does not  
13 conflict with state statute. The accreditation adopted by the State  
14 Board shall encompass accreditation for elementary schools, middle  
15 schools, junior high schools, and high schools. The accreditation  
16 standards shall be made available for public inspection at the  
17 offices of the State Department of Education.

18 B. Standards for accreditation adopted by the State Board of  
19 Education shall include standards relating to the provision of  
20 school counselors to the public school children of this state. The  
21 State Board of Education shall require each local school district to  
22 provide information regarding the number of counselors serving each  
23 school site, the duties of all such counselors including all  
24 administrative duties, the number of students served by each

1 counselor, and information regarding the number of counselors  
2 employed per elementary school, middle school, junior high school  
3 and high school.

4 C. Except as otherwise provided by subsection A of this section  
5 with regard to curricular standards, as a condition of receiving  
6 state accreditation pursuant to this act:

7 1. High schools shall meet the accreditation standards not  
8 later than June 30, 1995; and

9 2. Elementary, middle and junior high schools shall meet the  
10 accreditation standards not later than June 30, 1999.

11 Schools shall thereafter continue to meet the accreditation  
12 standards as a condition of continued accreditation. Nothing herein  
13 shall be construed as preventing changes to the adopted standards by  
14 the State Board of Education pursuant to the Administrative  
15 Procedures Act.

16 D. If one or more school sites fails to receive accreditation  
17 as required pursuant to this section by the dates set forth in  
18 subsection C of this section or subsequently loses accreditation,  
19 the State Board of Education shall close the school and reassign the  
20 students to accredited schools within the district or shall annex  
21 the district to one or more other districts in which the students  
22 can be educated in accredited schools.

23 E. State Board accreditation regulations shall provide for  
24 warnings and for assistance to schools and school districts whenever

1 there is reason to believe a school is in danger of losing its state  
2 accreditation.

3 F. The State Board shall provide assistance to districts in  
4 considering the possibility of meeting accreditation requirements  
5 through the use of nontraditional means of instruction. The State  
6 Board shall also assist districts in forming cooperatives and making  
7 arrangements for the use of satellite instruction or other  
8 instructional technologies to the extent that use of such  
9 instructional means meets accreditation standards.

10 G. ~~For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, and June 30,~~  
11 ~~2016, accreditation~~

12 1. Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied nor  
13 shall a penalty be assessed against a school or school district for  
14 failing to meet the media materials and equipment standards and  
15 media program expenditure standards as set forth in the  
16 accreditation standards adopted by the Board.

17 2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall cease  
18 to be effective during a fiscal year immediately following a fiscal  
19 year that the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
20 reaches an amount equal to or more than Three Thousand Two Hundred  
21 Ninety-one Dollars and sixty cents (\$3,291.60) as calculated  
22 pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of this title and reported to school  
23 districts by the State Department of Education on the initial  
24 tentative State Aid allocation notice.

1       3. If the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
2 amount set and calculated as provided for in paragraph 2 of this  
3 subsection is reduced by one percent (1%) or more as reported to  
4 school districts by the Department on the initial tentative State  
5 Aid allocation notice for the following fiscal year, the provisions  
6 of paragraph 2 of this subsection shall cease to be effective and  
7 the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall continue to  
8 be effective.

9       H. 1. The State Board shall not assess a financial penalty  
10 against any school district which is given a deficiency in  
11 accreditation status during ~~the any fiscal years ending June 30,~~  
12 ~~2015, and June 30, 2016~~ year as provided for in this subsection.

13       2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall cease  
14 to be effective during a fiscal year immediately following a fiscal  
15 year that the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
16 reaches an amount equal to or more than Three Thousand Two Hundred  
17 Ninety-one Dollars and sixty cents (\$3,291.60) as calculated  
18 pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of this title and reported to school  
19 districts by the State Department of Education on the initial  
20 tentative State Aid allocation notice.

21       3. If the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
22 amount set and calculated as provided for in paragraph 2 of this  
23 subsection is reduced by one percent (1%) or more as reported to  
24 school districts by the Department on the initial tentative State

1 Aid allocation notice for the following fiscal year, the provisions  
2 of paragraph 2 of this subsection shall cease to be effective and  
3 the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall continue to  
4 be effective.

5 I. Accreditation shall not be withdrawn from or denied, nor  
6 shall a penalty be assessed against, a school district for complying  
7 with this section.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-167, as  
9 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.  
10 2015, Section 3-167), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 3-167. ~~For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, and~~  
12 ~~June 30, 2016, the~~ A. 1. The State Board of Education shall exempt  
13 all school districts from or waive any policy, rule or law which  
14 requires school districts to form, convene, or participate in any  
15 advisory council or committee, including but not limited to the  
16 requirement to convene an advisory council when preparing the school  
17 improvement plan as set forth in Section 5-117.4 of this title.

18 2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall cease  
19 to be effective during a fiscal year immediately following a fiscal  
20 year that the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
21 reaches an amount equal to or more than Three Thousand Two Hundred  
22 Ninety-one Dollars and sixty cents (\$3,291.60) as calculated  
23 pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of this title and reported to school  
24

1 districts by the State Department of Education on the initial  
2 tentative State Aid allocation notice.

3 3. If the statewide average weighted average daily membership  
4 amount set and calculated as provided for in paragraph 2 of this  
5 subsection is reduced by one percent (1%) or more as reported to  
6 school districts by the Department on the initial tentative State  
7 Aid allocation notice for the following fiscal year, the provisions  
8 of paragraph 2 of this subsection shall cease to be effective and  
9 the provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall continue to  
10 be effective.

11 B. School districts shall not be exempted from forming,  
12 convening or participating in an advisory council or committee if  
13 required by federal law or regulation.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

15 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
16 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
17 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
18 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 2016.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate