

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2676

By: Shumate of the House

3 and

4 Eason McIntyre of the
5 Senate

6
7 An Act relating to schools; establishing the Oklahoma
8 Bridge to Literacy Program; stating purpose of the
9 Program; directing the State Department of Education
10 to issue requests for proposals by certain dates and
11 to review applications; describing private entities
12 eligible to submit applications; providing for
13 approval of applications; specifying requirements of
14 approved application reading programs; requiring the
15 Department to forward approved applications to the
16 State Board of Education; directing the Board to
17 award grants through a competitive bid process;
18 requiring awards to be made statewide; stating uses
19 of grants; directing the Department to provide
20 certain training, resources, and assistance to grant
21 recipients; directing the Board to provide for
22 independent evaluations of the funded programs;
23 requiring the Board to prepare and submit a report;
24 specifying contents of the reports; providing for
codification; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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 1210.516 of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall establish the Oklahoma
Bridge to Literacy Program. The purpose of the Program is to

1 improve reading skills of children up through the fourth grade, as
2 measured by mastery of the skills identified in the Priority
3 Academic Student Skills (PASS), by training and assisting private
4 entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to offer
5 reading instruction to children before school, after school, on
6 Saturdays and during summer periods.

7 B. The State Department of Education shall issue a request for
8 proposals on or before October 1, 2012, and each October 1
9 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is
10 funded, seeking applications for the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy
11 Program. The Department shall review the applications for
12 compliance with the established requirements.

13 C. Private entities eligible to submit applications for the
14 Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program shall include the following:

15 1. Nonprofit organizations or programs which are exempt from
16 taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the
17 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C., Section 501(c)(3);

18 2. Community-based programs, centers, organizations or services
19 which maintain community participation or supervision in their
20 planning, operation and evaluation; and

21 3. Churches or religious organizations, associations, or
22 societies or nonprofit organizations or programs operated,
23 supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious
24 organization, association or society.

1 D. The State Board of Education may approve applications that
2 meet the requirements set forth in this subsection and as
3 established by the Board. Approved applications shall establish
4 reading programs for children up through the fourth grade. The
5 reading programs may be offered before school, after school, on
6 Saturdays or during summer periods. The reading programs shall
7 offer reading instruction designed to enable the children to acquire
8 the appropriate level reading skills and shall provide diagnostic
9 assessments and measurement of reading skills to determine reading
10 success. The reading program shall focus on the acquisition of
11 reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological
12 awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and
13 comprehension.

14 E. On or before December 1, 2012, and each December 1
15 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is
16 funded, the Department shall forward applications that the
17 Department has determined meet the requirements of this section to
18 the Board. On or before February 1, 2013, and each February 1
19 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is
20 funded, the Board shall award, through a competitive bid process,
21 one or more grants to private entities to provide reading
22 instruction programs through the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy
23 Program. To the extent possible, grants shall be awarded on a
24 statewide basis. The grant funding shall be used to provide the

1 reading instruction program, provide employees and volunteers for
2 the program and to purchase materials for the program.

3 F. In addition to the grant funding, the Department shall
4 provide to the private entities awarded grants pursuant to this
5 section the following:

6 1. Reading instruction training, academies or courses designed
7 to train the private entity employees or volunteers in reading
8 instruction and remediation strategies;

9 2. Resources and materials on reading instruction and
10 remediation; and

11 3. Any other appropriate assistance.

12 G. The Board shall provide for independent evaluations of
13 programs funded pursuant to this section.

14 H. Beginning June 30, 2013, and each year thereafter for which
15 the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is funded, the Board shall
16 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
18 containing:

19 1. Descriptions of the reading programs approved and funded
20 through the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program;

21 2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

22 3. Number of children served through approved programs; and

23 4. Achievement data for children served through approved
24 programs.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of March, 2012.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the _____ day of _____, 2012.

Presiding Officer of the Senate