

SENATE CHAMBER

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DISPOSITION BY SENATE

FLOOR AMENDMENT

No. _____

(Date)

Mr./Madame President:

I move to amend House Bill No. 2341 , as follows:

By inserting a new section 4 and a new section 5 as attached; and

By renumbering subsequent sections;

Submitted by:

Senator Russell

Russell-AM-FA-HB2341
3/28/2012 3:45 PM

1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-121 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Scientific
5 Education and Academic Freedom Act".

1 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-122 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Oklahoma Legislature finds that an important purpose of
5 science education is to inform students about scientific evidence
6 and to help students develop critical thinking skills they need in
7 order to become intelligent, productive, and scientifically
8 informed citizens. The Legislature further finds that the teaching
9 of some scientific concepts including but not limited to premises
10 in the areas of biology, chemistry, meteorology, bioethics and
11 physics can cause controversy, and that some teachers may be unsure
12 of the expectations concerning how they should present information
13 on some subjects such as, but not limited to, biological evolution,
14 the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.

15 B. The State Board of Education, district boards of education,
16 district superintendents and administrators, and public school
17 principals and administrators shall endeavor to create an
18 environment within public elementary and secondary schools that
19 encourages students to explore scientific questions, learn about
20 scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills, and respond
21 appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about
22 controversial issues. Educational authorities in this state shall
23 also endeavor to assist teachers to find more effective ways to
24 present the science curriculum where it addresses scientific
25 controversies. Toward this end, teachers shall be permitted to
26 help students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an

1 objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses
2 of existing scientific theories pertinent to the course being
3 taught.

4 C. The State Board of Education, a district board of
5 education, district superintendent or administrator, or public
6 school principal or administrator shall not prohibit any teacher in
7 a school district in this state from helping students understand,
8 analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific
9 strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories
10 pertinent to the course being taught.

11 D. Students may be evaluated based upon their understanding of
12 course materials, but no student in any public school or
13 institution shall be penalized in any way because the student may
14 subscribe to a particular position on scientific theories. Nothing
15 in this subsection shall be construed to exempt students from
16 learning, understanding and being tested on curriculum as
17 prescribed by state and local education standards.

18 E. The provisions of the Scientific Education and Academic
19 Freedom Act shall only protect the teaching of scientific
20 information, and shall not be construed to promote any religious or
21 nonreligious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a
22 particular set of religious beliefs or nonbeliefs, or promote
23 discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion. The intent
24 of the provisions of the act is to create an environment in which
25 both the teacher and students can openly and objectively discuss

1 the facts and observations of science, and the assumptions that
2 underlie their interpretation.

3 F. By no later than the start of the 2012-2013 school year,
4 the State Department of Education shall notify all district
5 superintendents of the provisions of the Scientific Education and
6 Academic Freedom Act. Each superintendent shall then disseminate
7 to all employees within the district a copy of the provisions of
8 the act.

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