

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2676

By: Shumate

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to schools; establishing the Oklahoma
10 Bridge to Literacy Program; stating purpose of the
11 Program; directing the State Department of Education
12 to issue requests for proposals by certain dates and
13 to review applications; describing private entities
14 eligible to submit applications; providing for
15 approval of applications; specifying requirements of
16 approved application reading programs; requiring the
17 Department to forward approved applications to the
18 State Board of Education; directing the Board to
19 award grants through a competitive bid process;
20 requiring awards to be made statewide; stating uses
21 of grants; directing the Department to provide
22 certain training, resources, and assistance to grant
23 recipients; directing the Board to provide for
24 independent evaluation of the funded programs;
 requiring the Board to prepare and submit a report;
 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 improve reading skills of children up through the fourth grade, as measured by mastery of the skills identified in the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS), by training and assisting private entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to offer reading instruction to children before school, after school, on Saturdays and during summer periods.

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

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

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

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

4 3. Churches or religious organizations, associations, or
5 societies or nonprofit organizations or programs operated,
6 supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious
7 organization, association or society.

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

21 E. On or before December 1, 2012, and each December 1
22 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is
23 funded, the Department shall forward applications that the
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1 Department has determined meet the requirements of this section to
2 the Board. On or before February 1, 2013, and each February 1
3 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is
4 funded, the Board shall award, through a competitive bid process,
5 one or more grants to private entities to provide reading
6 instruction programs through the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy
7 Program. To the extent possible, grants shall be awarded on a
8 statewide basis. The grant funding shall be used to provide the
9 reading instruction program, provide employees and volunteers for
10 the program and to purchase materials for the program.

11 F. In addition to the grant funding, the Department shall
12 provide to the private entities awarded grants pursuant to this
13 section the following:

14 1. Reading instruction training, academies or courses designed
15 to train the private entity employees or volunteers in reading
16 instruction and remediation strategies;

17 2. Resources and materials on reading instruction and
18 remediation; and

19 3. Any other appropriate assistance.

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

22 H. Beginning June 30, 2013, and each year thereafter for which
23 the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is funded, the Board shall
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1 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the
2 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
3 containing:

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

6 2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

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

8 4. Achievement data for children served through approved
9 programs.

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

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

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16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 03/01/2012
17 - DO PASS, As Amended.