

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2676

By: Shumate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; establishing the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program; stating purpose of the Program; directing the State Department of Education to issue requests for proposals by certain dates and to review applications; describing private entities eligible to submit applications; providing for approval of applications; specifying requirements of approved application reading programs; requiring the Department to forward approved applications to the State Board of Education; directing the Board to award grants through a competitive bid process; requiring awards to be made statewide; stating uses of grants; directing the Department to provide certain training, resources, and assistance to grant recipients; directing the Board to provide for 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:

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.516 of Title 70, unless  
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The State Board of Education shall establish the Oklahoma  
5 Bridge to Literacy Program. The purpose of the Program is to  
6 improve reading skills of children up through the fourth grade, as  
7 measured by mastery of the skills identified in the Priority  
8 Academic Student Skills (PASS), by training and assisting private  
9 entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to offer  
10 reading instruction to children before school, after school, on  
11 Saturdays and during summer periods.

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

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

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

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

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.

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UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.  
**BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED** language denotes Committee Amendments.  
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.