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As Amended

BILL NO. 2676

and

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[ schools - establishing Bridge to Literacy Program -
codification - effective date -
emergency ]
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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:

B. The State Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals on or before October 1, 2012, and each October 1

1 thereafter for which the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is  
2 funded, seeking applications for the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy  
3 Program. The Department shall review the applications for  
4 compliance with the established requirements.

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

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

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

13 3. Churches or religious organizations, associations, or  
14 societies or nonprofit organizations or programs operated,  
15 supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious  
16 organization, association or society.

17 D. The State Board of Education may approve applications that  
18 meet the requirements set forth in this subsection and as  
19 established by the Board. Approved applications shall establish  
20 reading programs for children up through the fourth grade. The  
21 reading programs may be offered before school, after school, on  
22 Saturdays or during summer periods. The reading programs shall  
23 offer reading instruction designed to enable the children to acquire  
24 the appropriate level reading skills and shall provide diagnostic

1 assessments and measurement of reading skills to determine reading  
2 success. The reading program shall focus on the acquisition of  
3 reading skills including, but not limited to, phonological  
4 awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and  
5 comprehension.

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

19 F. In addition to the grant funding, the Department shall  
20 provide to the private entities awarded grants pursuant to this  
21 section the following:

22 1. Reading instruction training, academies or courses designed  
23 to train the private entity employees or volunteers in reading  
24 instruction and remediation strategies;

1        2. Resources and materials on reading instruction and  
2 remediation; and

3        3. Any other appropriate assistance.

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

6        H. Beginning June 30, 2013, and each year thereafter for which  
7 the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program is funded, the Board shall  
8 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
9 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
10 containing:

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

13        2. Number and amount of grants awarded;

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

15        4. Achievement data for children served through approved  
16 programs.

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

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

22        COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 4-4-12 - DO  
23 PASS, As Amended.  
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