

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

April 9, 2012

As Amended

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2676

By: Shumate of the House

and

Eason McIntyre of the
Senate

[schools - establishing Bridge to Literacy Program - codification - effective date -

emergency]

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.516 of Title 70, unless
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. The State Board of Education shall establish the Oklahoma
16 Bridge to Literacy Program. The purpose of the Program is to
17 improve reading skills of children up through the fourth grade, as
18 measured by mastery of the skills identified in the Priority
19 Academic Student Skills (PASS), by training and assisting private
20 entities, as defined in subsection C of this section, to offer
21 reading instruction to children before school, after school, on
22 Saturdays and during summer periods.

23 B. The State Department of Education shall issue a request for
24 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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