

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 2676</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CCRA</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Representative Shumate</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>5/21/2012</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0 Immediate; \$0 Agency Request</b>

**Research Analysis**

The conference committee report to House Bill 2676 directs the Oklahoma State Board of Education to establish the Oklahoma Bridge to Literacy Program to improve reading skills of children through the fourth grade. The State Department of Education must issue a request for proposals by October 1, 2012, and each October 1 after that, seeking applications for the program. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations; community-based programs, centers, organizations or services; and churches or religious organizations. Programs must establish reading programs for children through the fourth grade and may be offered before school, after school, on Saturdays or during summer months. The programs must focus on enabling children to read at the appropriate level and provide assessments and measure of reading skills to determine success. The state board must award grants by February 1 each year. The department also must provide reading instruction training, resource materials on reading instruction and remediation and other assistance. The board must provide for independent evaluations of programs and report to the governor, speaker of the House and pro tempore of the Senate each year.

Prepared By: Dawn Marks

**Fiscal Analysis**

The measure provides for grants to be awarded on a statewide basis, to the extent possible, for the purpose of providing reading instruction to children through the fourth grade. Program approval is permissive. Program scope is currently broad, as the measure does not detail the number of grants to be provided, the amount of each grant, the materials to be purchased, or the number of employees that are to be funded. The State Department of Education has not requested any funds for the program and may choose to fund from its existing budget.

Prepared By: Nicole Barnes

**Other Considerations**

None