

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2497

By: Casey

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; directing the State Department of Education to conduct a study of reading instruction and retention of students; stating purpose of the study; allowing the Department to contract with certain entities; specifying information to be gathered for the study; requiring the Department to issue a report by a certain date; specifying the inclusion of certain recommendations; requiring student data to be aggregated; providing for codification; 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 1210.508G of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Education shall conduct a study of reading instruction and the retention of students in the third grade based on reading assessments administered pursuant to Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The purpose of the

1 study shall be to determine the reasons why some students in the
2 state have not been successful in acquiring the appropriate grade-
3 level reading skills, to identify the best practices available to
4 help students become successful readers and to implement those best
5 practices in schools statewide. The Department may contract with a
6 higher education institution or other entity or consultant to assist
7 in the study, contingent upon the availability of funding.

8 B. The State Department of Education shall:

9 1. Gather data and complete an assessment of the type of
10 reading instruction practices and methods currently being used by
11 school districts in the state; and

12 2. Gather data on students who have been assessed pursuant to
13 Section 1210.508C of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and have been
14 found not to be reading at the appropriate grade level by the third
15 grade including, but not limited to:

- 16 a. socioeconomic information,
- 17 b. access to reading resources outside of school, and
- 18 c. screening for and identification of learning
19 disabilities.

20 C. After gathering and analyzing the data as provided for in
21 this section, the State Department of Education shall issue a report
22 no later than December 31, 2015, to the Governor, the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the
24 Senate. In addition to other information and recommendations, the

1 report shall also include recommendations on legislative changes
2 that need to be made to the third-grade retention requirements in
3 the Reading Sufficiency Act and any other requirements in the act.

4 D. Any student data contained in the report shall be aggregated
5 so that individual students cannot be identified.

6 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
7 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
8 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
9 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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