

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2497

By: Casey, Kern, Coody and  
Pittman of the House

3 and

4 Stanislawski of the Senate  
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8 An Act relating to schools; directing the State  
9 Department of Education to conduct a study of reading  
10 instruction and retention of students; stating  
11 purpose of the study; allowing the Department to  
12 contract with certain entities; specifying  
13 information to be gathered for the study; requiring  
14 the Department to issue a report by a certain date;  
15 specifying the inclusion of certain recommendations;  
16 requiring student data to be aggregated; providing  
17 for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508G of Title 70, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 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  
study shall be to determine the reasons why some students in the  
state have not been successful in acquiring the appropriate grade-

1 level reading skills, to identify the best practices available to  
2 help students become successful readers and to implement those best  
3 practices in schools statewide. The Department may contract with a  
4 higher education institution or other entity or consultant to assist  
5 in the study, contingent upon the availability of funding.

6 B. The State Department of Education shall:

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

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

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

18 C. After gathering and analyzing the data as provided for in  
19 this section, the State Department of Education shall issue a report  
20 no later than December 31, 2015, to the Governor, the Speaker of the  
21 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the  
22 Senate. In addition to other information and recommendations, the  
23 report shall also include recommendations on legislative changes  
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that need to be made to the third-grade retention requirements in the Reading Sufficiency Act and any other requirements in the act.

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of February,  
2014.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate