

FLOOR AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB1674 _____
Page 2-4 Section 1-2 Lines _____
Of the printed Bill
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting all of Sections 1 and 2 and by inserting new Sections 1 and 2
to read as follows:

(See Attached)

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Amendment submitted by: Gus Blackwell

Adopted: _____

Reading Clerk

1 "SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-121 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Scientific
5 Education and Academic Freedom Act".

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-122 of Title 70, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. The Oklahoma Legislature finds that an important purpose of
10 science education is to inform students about scientific evidence
11 and to help students develop critical thinking skills they need in
12 order to become intelligent, productive, and scientifically informed
13 citizens.

14 B. The State Board of Education, district boards of education,
15 district superintendents and administrators, and public school
16 principals and administrators shall endeavor to create an
17 environment within public elementary and secondary schools that
18 encourages students to explore scientific questions, learn about
19 scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills, and respond
20 appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about
21 controversial issues. Educational authorities in this state shall
22 also endeavor to assist teachers to find more effective ways to
23 present the science curriculum where it addresses scientific
24 controversies. Toward this end, teachers shall be permitted to help

1 students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective
2 manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of
3 existing scientific theories pertinent to the course being taught.

4 C. The State Board of Education, a district board of education,
5 district superintendent or administrator, or public school principal
6 or administrator shall not prohibit any teacher in a school district
7 in this state from helping students understand, analyze, critique,
8 and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and
9 scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories pertinent to
10 the course being taught.

11 D. Students may be evaluated based upon their understanding of
12 course materials, but no student in any public school or institution
13 shall be penalized in any way because the student may subscribe to a
14 particular position on scientific theories. Nothing in this
15 subsection shall be construed to exempt students from learning,
16 understanding, and being tested on curriculum as prescribed by state
17 and local education standards.

18 E. The provisions of the Scientific Education and Academic
19 Freedom Act shall only protect the teaching of scientific
20 information, and shall not be construed to promote any religious or
21 nonreligious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a
22 particular set of religious beliefs or nonbeliefs, or promote
23 discrimination for or against religion or nonreligion. The intent
24 of the provisions of this act is to create an environment in which

1 both the teacher and students can openly and objectively discuss the
2 facts and observations of science, and the assumptions that underlie
3 their interpretation.

4 F. By no later than the start of the 2014-2015 school year, the
5 State Department of Education shall notify all district
6 superintendents of the provisions of the Scientific Education and
7 Academic Freedom Act. Each superintendent shall then disseminate to
8 all employees within the district a copy of the provisions of this
9 act."

10

11 54-2-8160 KB 02/10/14

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24