

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 393

By: Brecheen and Standridge of
the Senate

6 and

7 Brumbaugh, Faught and
8 Bennett (John) of the House

9
10 An Act relating to school curriculum; creating the
11 Oklahoma Science Education Act; providing short
12 title; providing for the creation of a school
13 environment that encourages the exploration of
14 scientific theories; allowing teachers to help
15 students analyze certain scientific strengths and
16 weaknesses; prohibiting the promotion of religious or
17 non-religious beliefs; providing for certain
18 notification; providing for certain waiver of
19 immunity; providing for codification; providing for
20 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
21 declaring an emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.12 of Title 70, unless
25 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
27 Science Education Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.13 of Title 70, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The State Board of Education, school district boards of
5 education, school district superintendents and school principals
6 shall endeavor to create an environment within public school
7 districts that encourages students to explore scientific questions,
8 learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills
9 and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion
10 about controversial issues.

11 B. The State Board of Education, school district boards of
12 education, school district superintendents and school principals
13 shall endeavor to assist teachers to find effective ways to present
14 the science curriculum as it addresses scientific controversies.
15 Teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze,
16 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths
17 and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in
18 the course being taught.

19 C. Neither the State Board of Education, nor any school
20 district board of education, school district superintendent or
21 school principal shall prohibit any teacher in a public school
22 district in this state from helping students understand, analyze,
23 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths
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1 and weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course
2 being taught.

3 D. This section only protects the teaching of scientific
4 information and shall not be construed to promote any religious or
5 non-religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a
6 particular set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs or promote
7 discrimination for or against religion or non-religion.

8 E. By no later than the start of the 2017-2018 school year, the
9 State Department of Education shall notify school district boards of
10 education and school district superintendents of public schools in
11 the state of the provisions of this act. Each school district board
12 of education and school district superintendent shall notify all
13 employees within the school district of the provisions of this act.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 A waiver of immunity from civil lawsuit, or termination of
17 employment, shall be granted to a teacher as defined in Title 70, as
18 long as they are acting in compliance with this act.

19 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

20 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND
5 ACCOUNTABILITY, dated 04/13/2017 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.
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