

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1250

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; prohibiting certain schools from requiring, making part of a course, or awarding credit for certain student actions; directing a teacher who discusses certain issues to make certain good faith effort; prohibiting a teacher from being compelled to discuss certain issues; providing penalty for failure to comply; providing for codification; providing an effective date; 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 5-201 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. In order to maintain a politically neutral environment in public schools in this state, no school district, public charter school, or public virtual charter school shall require, make part of a course, or award grade credit or extra credit for a student's:

1. Political activism, lobbying, or efforts to persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the federal, state, or local level to take specific actions by direct communication;

1 2. Participation in any internship program, practicum, or
2 similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy;

3 3. Engaging in political activities, such as wearing a local,
4 state, or federal political button or displaying campaign materials;

5 4. Influencing or interfering with or affecting the result of a
6 local, state, or federal election or referendum;

7 5. Soliciting, accepting, or receiving a political
8 contribution;

9 6. Soliciting, accepting, or performing uncompensated volunteer
10 services for a partisan election or any partisan campaign;

11 7. Soliciting or discouraging political activity;

12 8. Campaigning for or against referendum questions,
13 constitutional amendments, and municipal ordinances;

14 9. Campaigning for or against candidates in partisan elections;

15 10. Distributing campaign literature;

16 11. Making campaign speeches for candidates, contributing money
17 to political organizations, or attending political fundraising
18 events and rallies;

19 12. Joining or becoming an active member of a political party
20 or club; or

21 13. Assisting in voter registration.

22 B. 1. A teacher who chooses to provide instruction on partisan
23 political issues or discuss topics described in subsection A of this
24 section shall make a good faith effort to explore the topic by
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1 presenting students with prominent, diverse, and contending
2 perspectives without giving favoritism or preference to one
3 particular perspective.

4 2. A teacher may not be compelled to discuss a particular
5 current event or widely debated and currently controversial issue of
6 public policy or social affairs.

7 C. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section may
8 lead to the suspension of a teacher's employment subject to the
9 provisions of the Teacher Due Process Act of 1990.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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