

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 SENATE BILL 1983

By: Jett

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to students; creating the Students'  
8 Bill of Rights; providing short title; affording  
9 certain rights to students enrolled in public school  
10 districts or public charter schools; allowing a  
11 student or his or her parent or legal guardian to  
12 submit written demand for enforcement of certain  
13 rights; requiring response from school within certain  
14 time period; allowing an action to be brought to  
15 enforce certain rights; providing for attorney fees;  
16 prohibiting an action from being brought for  
17 violation of certain right unless certain  
18 notification occurs; prohibiting an action from being  
19 brought prior to certain incident within certain time  
20 period; providing for codification; providing an  
21 effective date; and 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 24-162 of Title 70, unless there  
25 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Students'  
27 Bill of Rights".

1 B. A student enrolled in and attending a public school district  
2 or public charter school in this state shall be afforded the  
3 following rights:

4 1. The right to a safe learning environment including the right  
5 to be free from bullying and threatening behavior as defined in  
6 Section 24-100.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

7 2. The right to an unbiased education that does not endorse,  
8 favor, or promote socialism, communism, or Marxism and that is free  
9 from anti-American bias;

10 3. The right to an unbiased learning environment that includes  
11 but is not limited to:

12 a. the right to a classroom environment that is free from  
13 the display of flags or propaganda of any organization  
14 or symbol of socialism, communism, Marxism, or anti-  
15 American sentiment, and

16 b. the right to attend or participate in school-sponsored  
17 or school-sanctioned events or activities that are  
18 free from the display of flags or propaganda that are  
19 paid for with public funds and that represent any  
20 organization or symbol of socialism, communism,  
21 Marxism, or anti-American sentiment;

22 4. The right of self-defense if attacked on school property or  
23 during a school event;

1           5. The right to public and free expression of religion, speech,  
2 and peaceable assembly including but not limited to:

3           a. the right to participate or lead in voluntary prayer  
4           pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-101.1 of  
5           Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

6           b. the right to observe one minute of silence each day  
7           pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-101.2 of  
8           Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

9           c. the right to read religious texts of his or her  
10           choosing during free time, and

11           d. the right to an unbiased education that does not  
12           endorse, favor, promote, demean, show hostility  
13           toward, or intentionally undermine any particular  
14           religion or nonreligious faith or religious  
15           perspective;

16           6. The right to an appropriate relationship with teachers and  
17 school employees that is free from actions that constitute a crime  
18 or an attempted crime under state statute;

19           7. The right to be free from the use of vulgar language  
20 directed toward other individuals by other students, teachers,  
21 athletic coaches, and school district employees;

22           8. The right to have a parent, legal guardian, or legal counsel  
23 present if he or she is being questioned concerning potentially  
24 illegal conduct; and

1           9. The right to be free from punishment or penalty at school or  
2 during school-related activities for lawfully exercising his or her  
3 rights or engaging in lawful conduct outside of school hours and  
4 outside of school property or school events.

5           C. 1. A student or the parent or legal guardian of a student  
6 who believes the student's rights provided for in subsection B of  
7 this section have been violated may submit in writing a demand for  
8 enforcement of his or her rights. Within seven (7) business days of  
9 receipt of the demand, the school shall submit a response in writing  
10 admitting to or denying the allegation.

11           2. The student or the parent or legal guardian of the student  
12 may file an action to enforce the rights outlined in subsection B of  
13 this section. If the student or the parent or legal guardian of the  
14 student is the prevailing party, the court shall award reasonable  
15 attorney fees.

16           3. An action may not be brought for a violation of the  
17 provisions of paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section unless a  
18 student or the parent or legal guardian of the student has notified  
19 the school of ongoing bullying or threatening behavior, the school  
20 has failed to address the bullying or threatening behavior by  
21 allowing the alleged bully to remain in contact with an alleged  
22 victim, and the continued bullying or threatening behavior rises to  
23 the level of continual harassment. An action may not be brought  
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1 prior to a second or subsequent incident within twelve (12) calendar  
2 months.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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