

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1422

By: Alvord

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-101.1, which relates to voluntary prayer; extending certain requirement to governing bodies of charter schools; requiring boards of education of public school districts and governing bodies of public charter schools to adopt certain policy regarding certain period of prayer and reading; requiring policy to contain certain provisions; allowing certain employee or student to revoke certain consent; requiring the Attorney General to take certain actions upon request of certain board of education or governing body; providing certain construction; updating statutory reference; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-101.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-101.1. A. The board of education of each public school district and the governing body of each public charter school shall permit those students and ~~teachers~~ employees who wish to do so to participate in voluntary prayer.

B. The board of education of each public school district and the governing body of each public charter school shall adopt a

policy requiring that students and employees be given an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text during each school day. The policy adopted pursuant to this subsection:

1. Shall contain the following statement: "It is the policy of (name of public school district or public charter school) that every student and employee be provided a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text.";

2. Shall require, as a condition of participation in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text, that an employee or the parent or legal guardian of a student submit to the school district or charter school a signed consent form that includes:

a. an acknowledgment that the student or employee has a choice whether to participate,

b. a statement that the employee or the parent or legal guardian of the student has no objection to the student participating in or hearing the prayers or readings offered during the period, and

c. an express waiver of the right to bring a claim arising out of the adoption of a policy pursuant to the provisions of this section including a claim under the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or related state or federal

1                   law. The waiver shall release the school district or  
2                   charter school and its employees from liability for  
3                   such claims brought in state or federal court;

4           3. Shall prohibit the provision of a prayer or reading of the  
5           Bible or other religious text over a public address system;

6           4. Shall specify that a period of prayer and reading of the  
7           Bible or other religious text may not be a substitute for  
8           instructional time;

9           5. Shall include provisions ensuring a prayer or reading of the  
10           Bible or other religious text is not knowingly or intentionally  
11           provided in the physical presence of, within hearing of, or in  
12           another manner that would constitute an injury in fact within the  
13           meaning of the United States Constitution or the Oklahoma  
14           Constitution on a person for whom a signed consent form has not been  
15           submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section or  
16           has been revoked pursuant to subsection C of this section;

17           6. May allow that the period of prayer and reading of the Bible  
18           or other religious text be provided before normal school hours or  
19           only in classrooms or other areas occupied by employees and students  
20           who have all submitted signed consent forms as provided by paragraph  
21           2 of this subsection; and

22           7. May provide opportunities for voluntary participation in  
23           individual or group activities.

1 C. A public school district or public charter school employee  
2 or the parent or legal guardian of a public school district or  
3 public charter school student may revoke the signed consent form  
4 provided pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section at  
5 any time by providing written notification to the school district or  
6 charter school. A school district or charter school employee who  
7 has revoked a signed consent form or a student whose parent or legal  
8 guardian has revoked a signed consent form:

9 1. Shall not participate in the period of prayer and reading of  
10 the Bible or other religious text; and

11 2. Shall remain subject to the waiver provided by subparagraph  
12 c of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.

13 D. Upon request from the board of education of a public school  
14 district or the governing body of a public charter school, the  
15 Attorney General shall:

16 1. Provide advice on best methods for a school district or  
17 charter school to comply with the requirements of this section;

18 2. Provide a model signed consent form that may be used to  
19 comply with the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this  
20 section; and

21 3. Defend the school district or charter school in a cause of  
22 action arising out of the adoption of a policy required by this  
23 section. The state shall be liable for the expenses, costs,  
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1 judgments, or settlements of claims arising pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 E. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit a public  
4 school district or public charter school employee or student from  
5 participating in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or  
6 other religious text during a time and place not designated by the  
7 policy adopted pursuant to this section.

8 F. Nothing in this act shall be construed to be in conflict  
9 with Section 11-101 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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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