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February 17, 2026

SENATE BILL NO. 1237

By: Bullard of the Senate

and

Hays of the House

An Act relating to teachers; creating the Teachers' Bill of Rights; providing short title; affording certain rights to certain teachers, administrators, and support staff; directing creation of certain due process plan; requiring plan to include certain components; 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 6-101.9 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

B. Teachers, administrators, and support staff employed by a school district, public charter school, or public virtual charter school in this state shall be afforded the following rights:

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

- a. the right to keep the Holy Scriptures in their classrooms for personal use,
- b. the right to use the Holy Scriptures as they pertain to the teaching of American history or American literature if presented objectively as part of a secular program of education,
- c. the right to wear faith-based or religious symbols including jewelry on their persons,
- d. the right to pray with, over, or in front of students as provided for in Section 11-101.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and
- e. the right to a working environment in which the employing school district, public charter school, or public virtual charter school does not endorse, favor, promote, demean, show hostility toward, or intentionally undermine any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective;

2. The right to be free from the use of vulgar or abusive language by students and other teachers, administrators, or support staff;

3. The right to be free from physical harm or threats from students, parents or legal guardians of students, and other employees of the school district, public charter school, or public virtual charter school;

1 4. The right to provide for the control and discipline of
2 students as may be assigned to him or her and to keep good order in
3 the classroom and other places in which he or she is assigned to be
4 in charge of students including:

5 a. the right to have disobedient, disrespectful, violent,
6 abusive, or disruptive students removed from the
7 classroom,

8 b. the right to refuse to allow a student who has been
9 suspended for a violent offense to return to his or
10 her classroom, as provided for in Section 24-101.3 of
11 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and

12 c. the right to use established and reasonable methods of
13 discipline, as provided for in the policy adopted
14 pursuant to Section 24-100.4 of Title 70 of the
15 Oklahoma Statutes, and to be immune from civil
16 liability for any action taken in good faith as
17 provided for Section 24-101.3 of Title 70 of the
18 Oklahoma Statutes;

19 5. The right of designated school personnel to carry and use a
20 firearm, as provided for in Section 5-149.2 of Title 70 of the
21 Oklahoma Statutes;

22 6. The right to a safe working environment with adequate safety
23 protocols and structural safety measures to ensure protection from
24 exterior or interior threats of violence;

1 7. The right to medical privacy, to refuse a vaccination as a
2 condition of employment, and to refuse to wear a mask or any other
3 medical device as a condition of employment, except as provided for
4 in Section 1210.190 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

5 8. The right to refuse to provide instruction or participate in
6 training on any topic that violates the individual's conscience,
7 ethics, or religion; provided, however, the individual shall be
8 prohibited from refusing to provide instruction prescribed by state
9 law including the subject matter standards provided for in Section
10 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or prescribed by State
11 Board of Education rules;

12 9. The right to adequate planning time including at least one
13 (1) hour not to be infringed by additional responsibilities or
14 requests; provided, however, an individual may voluntarily
15 relinquish his or her planning hour;

16 10. The right to a lunch period of a minimum of twenty (20)
17 minutes during the school day;

18 11. The right to information regarding complaints filed by a
19 student or the parent or legal guardian of a student, unless the
20 complaint is part of a law enforcement investigation;

21 12. The right to be protected by school administrators when
22 helping students better understand, analyze, critique, and review in
23 an objective manner the strengths and weaknesses of existing
24 theories, issues, and subjects which may be controversial when

1 covered in a course being taught using evidence-based, peer-reviewed
2 material; and

3 13. The right to privately petition a school administrator, a
4 school district board of education, or a governing body of a public
5 charter school or public virtual charter school to modify a school
6 policy.

7 C. A school district board of education or the governing body
8 of a public charter school or public virtual charter school shall
9 create a due process plan for teachers, administrators, and support
10 staff to report violations of the rights provided for in subsection
11 B of this section. The due process plan shall include, at a
12 minimum, the following:

13 1. Designation of a school employee or employees to receive
14 reports of violation;

15 2. Provisions for anonymous reports to protect the identity of
16 the accuser from retribution;

17 3. A requirement that reported violations be investigated by
18 designated school employees in a timely manner;

19 4. Procedures for investigating and implementing punishment for
20 false accusations;

21 5. Procedures for reporting to law enforcement suspected
22 violations that may constitute criminal activity or reasonably have
23 the potential to endanger school safety; and
24

1 6. A procedure for appealing findings of a designated school
2 employee or employees to a school district board of education or the
3 governing body of a public charter school or public virtual charter
4 school.

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

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

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 17, 2026 - DO PASS
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