

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1742

By: Brecheen

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school curriculum; creating the
8 Oklahoma Science Education Act; providing short
9 title; providing legislative intent; providing for
10 the assistance of teachers in teaching scientific
11 curriculum; promoting critical thinking; allowing for
12 open discussion of scientific theories; directing
13 teachers to teach certain material; allowing
14 supplemental material to be taught; prohibiting the
15 promotion of a particular belief system; directing
16 the State Board of Education to adopt rules;
17 providing for codification; providing for
18 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
19 declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

1 Recognizing the importance of critical thinking, logical
2 analysis and objective discussion in education it is the intent of
3 the Legislature to foster an environment in public schools where
4 such learning occurs. This act is modeled on a Louisiana law which
5 has not been invalidated by the highest court of the State of
6 Louisiana or a federal district court. Legal challenges to academic
7 freedom bills have historically alleged that such bills are intended
8 to allow the teaching of creationism or intelligent design. This
9 bill does not propose that schools teach creationism or intelligent
10 design, rather, it is the intent to foster an environment of
11 critical thinking in schools including a scientific critique of the
12 theory of evolution.

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

16 A. The State Board of Education, upon the request of a school
17 district board of education, shall allow and assist teachers,
18 principals, and school administrators in creating an environment
19 within the public school system that promotes critical thinking,
20 logical analysis, open and objective discussion of scientific
21 theories including, but not limited to, evolution, the origin of
22 life, global warming, and human cloning. Assistance shall include
23 support and guidance for teachers regarding effective ways to help
24 students understand, analyze, critique, and objectively review

1 scientific theories being studied, including those enumerated in
2 this subsection.

3 B. A teacher shall teach the material presented in the standard
4 science textbook and may use supplemental textbooks and
5 instructional materials to help students understand, analyze,
6 critique, and review scientific theories in an objective manner.

7 C. This act shall not be construed to promote any religious
8 doctrine or set of religious beliefs.

9 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
10 the provisions of this act.

11 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

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

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