

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 528

By: Pugh of the Senate

3 and

4 Davis of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to schools; creating the Early  
7 Childhood Literacy Task Force; providing expiration  
8 date; providing for membership; providing for  
9 designation of chair; requiring appointments by  
10 certain date; requiring organizational meeting by  
11 certain date; specifying quorum; providing for  
12 frequency of meetings; allowing members to  
participate via videoconference; prohibiting  
13 compensation or travel reimbursement for members;  
14 providing for staff support; requiring submission of  
15 certain report by certain date; providing for  
16 codification; providing an effective date; and  
17 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.508H of Title 70, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created until November 30, 2024, the Early  
23 Childhood Literacy Task Force to study and make recommendations  
24 regarding the teaching of literacy to students in early childhood  
and elementary grade levels.

B. The task force shall be comprised of eight (8) members to be  
appointed as follows:

1 1. Two certified reading specialists appointed by the President  
2 Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated to serve  
3 as chair of the task force;

4 2. One teacher certified in early childhood education appointed  
5 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

6 3. One teacher certified in elementary education appointed by  
7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

8 4. One teacher certified in English as a second language  
9 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

10 5. One teacher certified in special education appointed by the  
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

12 6. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives, who shall be a dean of a college of education at an  
14 institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of  
15 Higher Education; and

16 7. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
17 Senate, who shall be an employee of the State Department of  
18 Education whose focus is reading and literacy.

19 C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty  
20 (30) days after the effective date of this act. The task force  
21 shall conduct an organizational meeting not later than September 1,  
22 2023.

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1 D. A quorum of the task force shall be required to approve any  
2 final action of the task force. For purposes of this section, four  
3 members shall constitute a quorum.

4 E. The task force may meet as often as may be required to  
5 perform the duties imposed upon it.

6 F. Task force members may participate via videoconference if  
7 they are visible and audible to each other through a video monitor.

8 G. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation or  
9 travel reimbursement.

10 H. The State Department of Education shall provide staff and  
11 administrative support for the task force.

12 I. The task force shall submit a report of its findings and  
13 recommendations by November 30, 2024, to the Governor, the President  
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives, and the chairs of the Senate and House of  
16 Representatives education committees.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

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