

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 393

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 for the creation of a school  
10 environment that encourages the exploration of  
11 scientific theories; allowing teachers to help  
12 students analyze certain scientific strengths and  
13 weaknesses; prohibiting the promotion of religious or  
14 non-religious beliefs; providing for certain  
15 notification; providing for codification; providing  
16 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.13 of Title 70, unless  
25 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 A. The State Board of Education, school district boards of  
27 education, school district superintendents and school principals

1 shall endeavor to create an environment within public school  
2 districts that encourages students to explore scientific questions,  
3 learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills  
4 and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion  
5 about controversial issues.

6 B. The State Board of Education, school district boards of  
7 education, school district superintendents and school principals  
8 shall endeavor to assist teachers to find effective ways to present  
9 the science curriculum as it addresses scientific controversies.  
10 Teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze,  
11 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths  
12 and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in  
13 the course being taught.

14 C. Neither the State Board of Education, nor any school  
15 district board of education, school district superintendent or  
16 school principal shall prohibit any teacher in a public school  
17 district in this state from helping students understand, analyze,  
18 critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths  
19 and weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course  
20 being taught.

21 D. This section only protects the teaching of scientific  
22 information and shall not be construed to promote any religious or  
23 non-religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a  
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1 particular set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs or promote  
2 discrimination for or against religion or non-religion.

3 E. By no later than the start of the 2017-2018 school year, the  
4 State Department of Education shall notify school district boards of  
5 education and school district superintendents of public schools in  
6 the state of the provisions of this act. Each school district board  
7 of education and school district superintendent shall notify all  
8 employees within the school district of the provisions of this act.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

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

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