1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION 2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA 3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017) ENGROSSED SENATE 4 BILL NO. 393 By: Brecheen and Standridge of 5 the Senate 6 and 7 Brumbaugh, Faught and Bennett (John) of the House 8 9 10 An Act relating to school curriculum; creating the 11 Oklahoma Science Education Act; providing short title; providing for the creation of a school 12 environment that encourages the exploration of scientific theories; allowing teachers to help students analyze certain scientific strengths and 13 weaknesses; prohibiting the promotion of religious or non-religious beliefs; providing for certain 14 notification; providing for certain waiver of immunity; providing for codification; providing for 15 noncodification; providing an effective date; and 16 declaring an emergency. 17 18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 19 20 SECTION 1. A new section of law to be codified NEW LAW in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.12 of Title 70, unless 21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows: 22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma 23 Science Education Act". 24

- SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.13 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The State Board of Education, school district boards of education, school district superintendents and school principals shall endeavor to create an environment within public school districts that encourages students to explore scientific questions, learn about scientific evidence, develop critical thinking skills and respond appropriately and respectfully to differences of opinion about controversial issues.
- B. The State Board of Education, school district boards of education, school district superintendents and school principals shall endeavor to assist teachers to find effective ways to present the science curriculum as it addresses scientific controversies.

 Teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze, critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course being taught.
- C. Neither the State Board of Education, nor any school district board of education, school district superintendent or school principal shall prohibit any teacher in a public school district in this state from helping students understand, analyze, critique and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths

1 and weaknesses of existing scientific theories covered in the course 2 being taught.

- D. This section only protects the teaching of scientific information and shall not be construed to promote any religious or non-religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a particular set of religious beliefs or non-beliefs or promote discrimination for or against religion or non-religion.
- E. By no later than the start of the 2017-2018 school year, the State Department of Education shall notify school district boards of education and school district superintendents of public schools in the state of the provisions of this act. Each school district board of education and school district superintendent shall notify all employees within the school district of the provisions of this act.
- SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A waiver of immunity from civil lawsuit, or termination of employment, shall be granted to a teacher as defined in Title 70, as long as they are acting in compliance with this act.

- SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.
- 20 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation 21 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval. COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY, dated 04/13/2017 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

SB393 HFLR BOLD FACE denotes Committee Amendments.