

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 528

6 By: Pugh

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 C. Appointments to the task force shall be made within thirty
22 (30) days after the effective date of this act. The task force
23 shall conduct an organizational meeting not later than September 1,
24 2023.

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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