

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 13, 2017

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 81

By: Sharp

6
7 An Act relating to student discipline; amending
8 Section 8, Chapter 7, 1st Extraordinary Session,
9 O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 135,
10 O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-149.7),
11 which relates to out-of-school suspension; lowering
12 the grade level at which students who commit certain
13 acts are subject to out-of-school suspension;
14 amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as last
15 amended by Section 1, Chapter 90, O.S.L. 2016 (70
16 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 24-101.3), which relates to
17 out-of-school suspensions; lowering the grade level
18 at which students who commit certain acts are subject
19 to out-of-school suspension; providing an effective
20 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

22 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 8, Chapter 7, 1st
23 Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter
24 135, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-149.7), is amended
to read as follows:

Section 6-149.7. A. No student enrolled in a school shall
assault, attempt to cause physical bodily injury, or act in a manner
that could reasonably cause bodily injury to an education employee

1 or a person who is volunteering for the school. Any student in
2 grades ~~six~~ three through twelve who violates the provisions of this
3 section shall be subject to out-of-school suspension as provided for
4 in Section 24-101.3 of this title. This section shall be in
5 addition to and does not limit the criminal liability of a person
6 who causes or commits an assault, battery, or assault and battery
7 upon a school employee as provided for in Section 650.7 of Title 21
8 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

9 B. No education employee shall be liable for the use of
10 necessary and reasonable force to control and discipline a student
11 during the time the student is in attendance at the school or in
12 transit to or from the school, or any other function authorized by
13 the school district.

14 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 90, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp.
16 2016, Section 24-101.3), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 24-101.3. A. Any student who is guilty of an act
18 described in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section may be
19 suspended out-of-school in accordance with the provisions of this
20 section. Each school district board of education shall adopt a
21 policy with procedures which provides for out-of-school suspension
22 of students. The policy shall address the term of the out-of-school
23 suspension, provide an appeals process as described in subsection B
24 of this section, and provide that before a student is suspended out-

1 of-school, the school or district administration shall consider and
2 apply, if appropriate, alternative in-school placement options that
3 are not to be considered suspension, such as placement in an
4 alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or
5 in-school detention. The policy shall address education for
6 students subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section
7 and whether participation in extracurricular activities shall be
8 permitted.

9 B. 1. Students suspended out-of-school for ten (10) or fewer
10 days shall have the right to appeal the decision of the
11 administration as provided in the policy required in subsection A of
12 this section. The policy shall specify whether appeals for short-
13 term suspensions as provided in this subsection shall be to a local
14 committee composed of district administrators or teachers or both,
15 or to the district board of education. Upon full investigation of
16 the matter, the committee or board shall determine the guilt or
17 innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of the
18 out-of-school suspension. If the policy requires appeals for short-
19 term suspensions to a committee, the policy adopted by the board
20 may, but is not required to, provide for appeal of the committee's
21 decision to the board.

22 2. Students suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days
23 and students suspended pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of
24 subsection C of this section may request a review of the suspension

1 with the administration of the district. If the administration does
2 not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to
3 appeal the decision of the administration to the district board of
4 education. Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph 2 of
5 subsection C of this section, no out-of-school suspension shall
6 extend beyond the current semester and the succeeding semester.
7 Upon full investigation of the matter, the board shall determine the
8 guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term
9 of the out-of-school suspension. A board of education may conduct
10 the hearing and render the final decision or may appoint a hearing
11 officer to conduct the hearing and render the final decision. The
12 decision of the district board of education or the hearing officer,
13 if applicable, shall be final.

14 C. 1. Students who are guilty of any of the following acts may
15 be suspended out-of-school by the administration of the school or
16 district:

- 17 a. violation of a school regulation,
- 18 b. possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point
19 beer, as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the
20 Oklahoma Statutes, or missing or stolen property if
21 the property is reasonably suspected to have been
22 taken from a student, a school employee, or the school
23 during school activities, and

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1 c. possession of a dangerous weapon or a controlled
2 dangerous substance while on or within two thousand
3 (2,000) feet of public school property, or at a school
4 event, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous
5 Substances Act. Possession of a firearm shall result
6 in out-of-school suspension as provided in paragraph 2
7 of this subsection.

8 2. Any student found in possession of a firearm while on any
9 public school property or while in any school bus or other vehicle
10 used by a public school for transportation of students or teachers
11 shall be suspended out-of-school for a period of not less than one
12 (1) year, to be determined by the district board of education
13 pursuant to the provisions of this section. The term of the
14 suspension may be modified by the district superintendent on a case-
15 by-case basis. For purposes of this paragraph the term "firearm"
16 shall mean and include all weapons as defined by 18 U.S.C., Section
17 921.

18 3. Any student in grades ~~six~~ three through twelve found to have
19 assaulted, attempted to cause physical bodily injury, or acted in a
20 manner that could reasonably cause bodily injury to a school
21 employee or a person volunteering for a school as prohibited
22 pursuant to Section ~~6-146~~ 6-149.7 of this title shall be suspended
23 for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive
24 semester, to be determined by the board of education pursuant to the

1 provisions of this section. The term of the suspension may be
2 modified by the district superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

3 D. At its discretion a school district may provide an education
4 plan for students suspended out-of-school for five (5) or fewer days
5 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The following
6 provisions shall apply to students who are suspended out-of-school
7 for more than five (5) days and who are guilty of acts listed in
8 subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this
9 section. Upon the out-of-school suspension, the parent or guardian
10 of a student suspended out-of-school pursuant to the provisions of
11 this subsection shall be responsible for the provision of a
12 supervised, structured environment in which the parent or guardian
13 shall place the student and bear responsibility for monitoring the
14 student's educational progress until the student is readmitted into
15 school. The school administration shall provide the student with an
16 education plan designed for the eventual reintegration of the
17 student into school which provides only for the core units in which
18 the student is enrolled. A copy of the education plan shall also be
19 provided to the student's parent or guardian. For the purposes of
20 this section, the core units shall consist of the minimum English,
21 mathematics, science, social studies and art units required by the
22 State Board of Education for grade completion in grades kindergarten
23 through eight and for high school graduation in grades nine through
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1 twelve. The plan shall set out the procedure for education and
2 shall address academic credit for work satisfactorily completed.

3 E. A student who has been suspended out-of-school from a public
4 or private school in the State of Oklahoma or another state for a
5 violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for
6 the health or safety of faculty or other students shall not be
7 entitled to enroll in a public school of this state, and no public
8 school shall be required to enroll the student, until the terms of
9 the suspension have been met or the time of suspension has expired.

10 F. 1. No public school of this state shall be required to
11 provide education services in the regular school setting to any
12 student who has been:

13 a. adjudicated as a delinquent for an offense defined as
14 a violent crime in Section 571 of Title 57 of the
15 Oklahoma Statutes,

16 b. convicted as an adult of an offense defined as a
17 violent crime in Section 571 of Title 57 of the
18 Oklahoma Statutes,

19 c. who has been removed from a public or private school
20 in the State of Oklahoma or another state by
21 administrative or judicial process for a violent act
22 or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for
23 the health or safety of faculty or other students,

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- 1 d. suspended as provided for in paragraph 3 of subsection
2 C of this section, or
- 3 e. has been removed from a public or private school in
4 the state or another state by administrative or
5 judicial process for an act of using electronic
6 communication, as defined in Section 24-100.3 of this
7 title, with intent to terrify, intimidate or harass,
8 or threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to
9 faculty or other students.

10 2. The school in which a student as described in paragraph 1 of
11 this subsection is subsequently enrolled may elect to not provide
12 education services in the regular school setting until the school
13 determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other
14 students or school district faculty or employees. Until the school
15 in which such student subsequently enrolls or re-enrolls determines
16 that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or
17 school district faculty or employees, the school may provide
18 education services through an alternative school setting, home-based
19 instruction, or other appropriate setting. If the school provides
20 education services to the student at a district school facility, the
21 school shall notify any student or school district faculty or
22 employee victims of the student, when known, and shall ensure that
23 the student will not be allowed in the general vicinity of or
24 contact with a victim of the student, provided the victim notifies

1 the school of the victim's desire to refrain from contact with the
2 offending student.

3 G. Students suspended out-of-school who are on an
4 individualized education plan pursuant to the Individuals with
5 Disabilities Education Act, P.L. No. 101-476, or who are subject to
6 the provisions of subsection F of this section and who are on an
7 individualized education plan shall be provided the education and
8 related services in accordance with the student's individualized
9 education plan.

10 H. A student who has been suspended for a violent offense which
11 is directed towards a classroom teacher shall not be allowed to
12 return to that teacher's classroom without the approval of that
13 teacher.

14 I. At its discretion, a school district may require a student
15 guilty of acts listed in subparagraph a or b of paragraph 1 of
16 subsection C of this section to complete intervention and prevention
17 programs as provided by designated Youth Service Agencies, if
18 available.

19 J. No school board, administrator or teacher may be held
20 civilly liable for any action taken in good faith which is
21 authorized by this section.

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

23 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
4 February 13, 2017 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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