An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2614

By: Thomsen of the House

and

Paddack and Pittman of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 397, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 24-101.3), which relates to out-of-school suspension; adding certain act for which a student may be removed from the regular school setting for educational services; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Out-of-school suspension

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-101.3, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 397, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 24-101.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-101.3 A. Any student who is guilty of an act described in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section may be suspended out-of-school in accordance with the provisions of this section. Each school district board of education shall adopt a policy with procedures which provides for out-of-school suspension of students. The policy shall address the term of the out-of-school suspension, provide an appeals process as described in subsection B of this section, and provide that before a student is suspended out-of-school, the school or district administration shall consider and apply, if appropriate, alternative in-school placement options that are not to be considered suspension, such as placement in an alternative school setting, reassignment to another classroom, or

in-school detention. The policy shall address education for students subject to the provisions of subsection D of this section and whether participation in extracurricular activities shall be permitted.

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

2. Students suspended out-of-school for more than ten (10) days and students suspended pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section may request a review of the suspension with the administration of the district. If the administration does not withdraw the suspension, the student shall have the right to appeal the decision of the administration to the district board of education. Except as otherwise provided for in paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section, no out-of-school suspension shall extend beyond the current semester and the succeeding semester. Upon full investigation of the matter, the board shall determine the guilt or innocence of the student and the reasonableness of the term of the out-of-school suspension. A board of education may conduct the hearing and render the final decision or may appoint a hearing officer to conduct the hearing and render the final decision. The decision of the district board of education or the hearing officer, if applicable, shall be final.

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

a. violation of a school regulation,

b. possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer, as defined by Section 163.2 of Title 37 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or missing or stolen property if

the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities, and

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

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

3. Any student in grades six through twelve found to have assaulted, attempted to cause physical bodily injury, or acted in a manner that could reasonably cause bodily injury to a school employee or a person volunteering for a school as prohibited pursuant to Section 6-146 of this title shall be suspended for the remainder of the current semester and the next consecutive semester, to be determined by the board of education pursuant to the provisions of this section. The term of the suspension may be modified by the district superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

D. At its discretion a school district may provide an education plan for students suspended out-of-school for five (5) or fewer days pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The following provisions shall apply to students who are suspended out-of-school for more than five (5) days and who are guilty of acts listed in subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section. Upon the out-of-school suspension, the parent or guardian of a student suspended out-of-school pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be responsible for the provision of a supervised, structured environment in which the parent or guardian shall place the student and bear responsibility for monitoring the student's educational progress until the student is readmitted into

school. The school administration shall provide the student with an education plan designed for the eventual reintegration of the student into school which provides only for the core units in which the student is enrolled. A copy of the education plan shall also be provided to the student's parent or guardian. For the purposes of this section, the core units shall consist of the minimum English, mathematics, science, social studies and art units required by the State Board of Education for grade completion in grades kindergarten through eight and for high school graduation in grades nine through twelve. The plan shall set out the procedure for education and shall address academic credit for work satisfactorily completed.

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

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

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

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

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

d. suspended as provided for in paragraph 3 of subsection C of this section ~~until the~~, or

e. has been removed from a public or private school in the state or another state by administrative or judicial process for an act of using electronic

communication, as defined in Section 24-100.3 of this title, with intent to terrify, intimidate or harass, or threaten to inflict injury or physical harm to faculty or other students.

2. The school in which ~~the~~ a student as described in paragraph 1 of this subsection is subsequently enrolled may elect to not provide education services in the regular school setting until the school determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or school district faculty or employees. Until the school in which such student subsequently enrolls or re-enrolls determines that the student no longer poses a threat to self, other students or school district faculty or employees, the school may provide education services through an alternative school setting, home-based instruction, or other appropriate setting. If the school provides education services to ~~such~~ the student at a district school facility, the school shall notify any student or school district faculty or employee victims of ~~such~~ the student, when known, and shall ensure that the student will not be allowed in the general vicinity of or contact with a victim of the student, provided ~~such~~ the victim notifies the school of the victim's desire to refrain from contact with the offending student.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 8th day of March, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 12th day of April, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 13th
day of April, 2016, at 4:10 o'clock P M.
By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 19th
day of April, 2016, at 3:13 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 19th
day of April, 2016, at 4:05 o'clock P. M.
By: Chris Benge