

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2557

By: Staggs and Toure of the
House

and

Horner of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; re-creating the Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; providing for retention of membership; modifying membership of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; stating purpose; providing for officers, reimbursement, staff assistance, and powers and duties; providing for a quorum; defining minority; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-130, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-130), which relates to the Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; authorizing the establishment of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center; providing for staff and administration; directing certain cooperation; modifying list of efforts to place minority teachers; adding to the establishment and development of such centers; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-129.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby re-created until July 1, 2004, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, a Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee which shall have oversight over implementation of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and shall advise the operation of such Center. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of nineteen (19) members. Appointments shall be made by July 1 with members serving a term of two (2) years unless no longer eligible. The Advisory Committee members shall be appointed as follows:

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:
 - a. two members from the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
 - b. two members from an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. One appointee shall be from a comprehensive university. One appointee shall be from a two-year college,
 - c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a minority,
 - d. one member who is a superintendent or designee of a public school district, and
 - e. two members representing a community with a high minority population. One appointee shall be African-American. One appointee shall be Hispanic;
2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:
 - a. two members from the Oklahoma State Senate,
 - b. two members from an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with a

teacher preparation program. One appointee shall be from a regional university,

- c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a minority,
- d. one member who is a principal of a public high school, and
- e. two members representing a community with a high minority population. One appointee shall be American Indian. One appointee shall be Asian-American;

3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;

4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee; and

5. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee.

B. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed for attendance at the Advisory Committee meetings by the appointing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act or Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Members of the Advisory Committee shall designate from among the members a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center.

C. Persons who are members on the effective date of this act shall retain their membership until their terms are completed.

D. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee shall:

- 1. Make recommendations on the annual operating budget of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and verify that the funds allocated to the Center through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are utilized exclusively by the Center by function;

2. Advise the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of unmet needs within the state in the implementation of the Center's activities;

3. Annually comment publicly on the progress of the Center;

4. Assist the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in developing and reporting information about the Center when necessary;

5. Meet as often as necessary to conduct business; and

6. Keep official minutes of the Committee meetings which shall be made available to the public upon request.

E. When a meeting of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee is called, the members of the Committee who are present for such meeting shall constitute a quorum.

F. As used in this section and Section 2 of this act, "minority" means a person who is a lawful resident of the State of Oklahoma and who is:

1. African-American, a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa;

2. Hispanic, a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American descent;

3. Asian-American, a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; or

4. American Indian and Alaskan Native, a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-130, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-130), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-130. ~~A.~~ The Recognizing the future significance and challenge of educating a growing and highly diverse student population in Oklahoma common schools and acknowledging the underrepresentation of minority teachers among the state's

professional education staff, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall have authority to ~~administer~~ establish the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and staff and administer its work. Upon recommendations and advice from the Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee ~~created~~ re-created pursuant to ~~subsection B of this section~~ Section 1 of this act, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are hereby directed to work with the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and other agencies, boards and education organizations in the interests of recruiting, retaining and placing minority teachers in the public schools of the State of Oklahoma. Such efforts shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The provision and coordination of support services to teacher training programs in ~~the appropriate~~ state institutions of higher education, including ~~mentoring and financial assistance to the funding of grants for campus-based recruitment, retention and placement programs that assist~~ minority students who intend to become teachers;

2. ~~The development and implementation of standards for effective multicultural teacher training, as required in Section 6-194 of this title;~~

3. The establishment and development of a recruiting ~~program~~ programs for potential minority teachers ~~complete with focus on specific audiences, including high school juniors and seniors who qualify for loans and scholarships,~~ including pre-collegiate curricular courses that emphasize school success and the opportunity to investigate teaching as a career choice, future teacher clubs and collegiate programs designed to recruit students making transitions from other careers and other areas of study;

4. ~~3.~~ The hosting of conferences ~~designed to improve professional practices~~ dealing with issues that effect minority teacher recruitment ~~and,~~ retention, and placement; and

~~5. 4. The creation of activities in the public and private schools of Oklahoma which enhance the image of the teaching profession. Such activities shall include the encouragement of future teacher clubs and the creation of a program similar to the South Carolina Teacher Cadet Program, which seeks to offer students of good academic ability the opportunity to study the art and science of teaching; and~~

5. The creation and development of placement services providing assistance to both minority educators and school districts seeking to hire qualified minority teachers.

~~B. There is hereby created until July 1, 1998, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law, a Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee which shall have oversight over implementation of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and shall advise the operation of such Center. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of twenty-five (25) members who shall serve for a term of two (2) years unless no longer eligible. Initial appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this act. Beginning in 1993, appointments shall be made by July 1 with members serving a term of two (2) years. Members shall serve for a term of two (2) years unless no longer eligible. The Advisory Committee members shall be appointed as follows:~~

- ~~1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:
 - ~~a. two members from the Oklahoma House of Representatives,~~
 - ~~b. two members from an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,~~
 - ~~c. one member who is an employee of an Oklahoma public school district,~~
 - ~~d. two members representing the Teacher Cadet Program,~~
 - ~~e. two members representing the Pro Team Program,~~~~

~~f. one member representing a multi-cultural service center, and~~

~~g. one member from a community with a high minority population;~~

~~2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:~~

~~a. two members from the Oklahoma State Senate,~~

~~b. two members from an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,~~

~~c. one member who is an employee of an Oklahoma public school district,~~

~~d. two members representing the Teacher Cadet Program,~~

~~e. two members representing the Pro Team Program,~~

~~f. one member representing a multi-cultural service center, and~~

~~g. one member from a community with a high minority population;~~

~~3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;~~

~~4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;~~

~~5. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;~~

~~6. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed for attendance at the Advisory Committee meeting by the appointing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act;~~

~~7. Members of the Advisory Committee shall designate from among the members a chairperson and vice-chairperson;~~

~~8. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center; and~~

~~9. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee shall:~~

- ~~a. make recommendations on the annual operating budget of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and verify that the funds allocated to the Center through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are utilized exclusively by the Center by function,~~
- ~~b. advise the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of unmet needs within the state in the implementation of the Center's activities,~~
- ~~c. annually comment publicly on the progress of the Center,~~
- ~~d. assist the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in developing and reporting information about the Center when necessary,~~
- ~~e. meet as often as necessary to conduct business, and~~
- ~~f. keep official minutes of the Committee meetings which shall be made available to the public.~~

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 4. 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 3rd day of March, 1998.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1998.

President of the Senate