

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 202

By: Roberts and Williams of the
Senate

and

Hager, Boyd (Betty) and
Braddock of the House

An Act relating to schools; creating the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act; providing certain definitions; stating purpose of act; authorizing Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and the State Board of Education to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma Program; stating purpose of Program; providing for creation of applicant review committee; stating eligibility for Education Leadership Oklahoma training programs; stating intent that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation work with the Oklahoma colleges and universities to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma training programs; authorizing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to provide certain scholarships; authorizing provision of certain salary bonuses to certain teachers; creating the Education Leadership Oklahoma Revolving Fund; creating the Oklahoma National Board Certification Revolving Fund; 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 6-204 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Education Leadership Oklahoma Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-204.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

For purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act:

1. "Salary bonus" means additional monies granted to teachers maintaining National Board certification subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature to the State Board of Education for that purpose;

2. "Certification" means National Board certification;

3. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

4. "National Board" means the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; and

5. "National Board certification" means National Board certification as provided by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-204.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and the State Board of Education are hereby authorized to establish the Education Leadership Oklahoma Program.

B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Program are:

1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about the Education Leadership Oklahoma scholarship program;

2. Provide information and assistance to teachers seeking National Board certification;

3. Provide scholarships, pursuant to this act, for teachers seeking National Board certification; and

4. Select recipients and alternates for Education Leadership Oklahoma scholarships.

C. To fulfill the provisions of this act, the Education Leadership Oklahoma Program shall:

1. Inform teachers of the existence of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Program and the scholarships and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board certification;

2. Collect and review applications to the scholarship program from interested teachers;

3. Create an applicant review committee for the purpose of identifying one hundred scholarship recipients for the Education Leadership Oklahoma scholarship program;

4. Select an appropriate number of alternates in the event that any scholarship recipient is unable to complete the certification process; and

5. Ensure that all scholarship recipients and alternates receive adequate information regarding the level of commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

D. The applicant review committee shall select from the pool of applicants, teachers within the state who:

1. Have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching;

2. Meet all eligibility requirements for potential certification as established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

3. Are employed in an Oklahoma public school; and

4. Meet other requirements of the Commission.

E. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this subsection, scholarship recipients shall have their application fee paid by the Commission and be provided a five-hundred-dollar scholarship to cover expenses associated with obtaining National Board certification.

F. All teachers seeking National Board certification shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership Oklahoma training programs that would assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board certification process, free of charge.

G. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Commission work with Oklahoma colleges and universities to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma training programs in higher education teacher preparation programs in the state, to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain National Board certification.

H. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature specifically for the purpose of this subsection, the State Board of Education shall provide those teachers who attain National Board certification a salary bonus for as long as they maintain their National Board certification and teach in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of salary bonuses pursuant to any provision of this act.

I. The salary bonus shall not be included for the purposes of determining the minimum salary and fringe benefits of a National Board certified teacher.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-204.3 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to be designated the "Education Leadership Oklahoma Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the fund by the Legislature. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to provide assistance and scholarships for candidates seeking National Board certification. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-204.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the State Board of Education to be designated the "Oklahoma National Board Certification Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the fund by the Legislature. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State Board of Education to provide an annual bonus for those teachers possessing National Board certification. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

SECTION 7. 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.