

ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 763

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Blackburn of the House

An Act relating to schools; stating legislative intent that the State Board of Education adopt a program for paraprofessional teachers; defining certain term; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Gilbert

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"An Act relating to schools; recognizing the role of public school paraprofessionals; stating legislative intent that the State Board of Education adopt a program for public school paraprofessionals; defining certain term; 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 6-127A of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Legislature recognizes that public school paraprofessionals play an important role in educating school children and in assisting teachers. The Legislature further recognizes the increasing role of public school paraprofessionals in the school system in light of teacher shortages. To achieve the goal of excellence for all persons who have an impact on student learning, it is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that public

school paraprofessionals be afforded career opportunities and economic incentives through a career development program.

It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that the State Board of Education adopt a program for the career development of public school paraprofessionals. The purpose of the program is to provide to public school paraprofessionals a system of career development which is based upon education and training advancement to encourage excellence among public school paraprofessionals.

For the purposes of this section, a public school paraprofessional is an employee of a school district whose position is either instructional in nature, or who delivers other direct services to students and/or their parents. A public school paraprofessional serves in a position for which a teacher or another professional has the ultimate responsibility for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the individual educational programs or related services and student performance.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

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 31st day of March, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1999.

President of the Senate