

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1906

By: Hilliard, Staggs and Kirby  
of the House

and

Crutchfield of the Senate

( Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma  
School for the Deaf - amending 10 O.S. 1991,  
Section 1419, as last amended by Section 1,  
Chapter 269, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp. 1999,  
Section 1419) - minimum salary level - effective  
date -

emergency )

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1419, as  
last amended by Section 1, Chapter 269, O.S.L. 1995 (10 O.S. Supp.  
1999, Section 1419), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1419. A. The Commission for Rehabilitation Services  
shall establish and maintain such methods of administration,  
including methods relating to the establishment and maintenance of  
personnel standards, as are necessary for the proper and efficient  
administration of the Oklahoma School for the Blind and the Oklahoma  
School for the Deaf, and programs thereat; shall maintain records  
and reports, shall provide a uniform accounting system; and shall  
incur such expenses and make such expenditures as it deems necessary  
to maintain and operate such institutions.

B. The Director of the State Department of Rehabilitation  
Services shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, employ or  
contract with qualified instructional personnel including, but not  
limited to, teachers, principals, directors of student assessment

and program development, vocational teachers, career vocational coordinators, head school librarians, school psychologists, mental health counselors, school counselors, school psychometrists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, orientation and mobility specialists (OSB), speech services supervisors and speech language pathologists, and appoint or employ the superintendent and such other personnel, as the director deems necessary for the proper operation of each institution, and shall fix their duties and compensation. The superintendent, teachers and other employees shall be eligible for membership or participation in the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the same extent and on the same basis as teachers and other employees of other state educational institutions and public schools.

C. The Commission shall promulgate personnel rules and establish policies similar to those applicable to public school district employees for those employees listed in subsection B of this section, including but not limited to leave and employment policies and a salary schedule. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the minimum salary level for qualified instructional personnel listed in subsection B of this section shall meet or exceed the minimum salary level provided for public school teachers in Section 18-114.7 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Department shall be authorized to notify teachers and other personnel on or before April 10 of each year concerning the renewal of contracts.

D. Those personnel listed in subsection B of this section who have entered into contracts with or been employed by the Department for Rehabilitation Services on or before July 1, 1995, in positions listed in subsection B of this section shall be entitled to a salary adjustment retroactive to February 16, 1995, or their first date of employment in such positions, whichever is the later, pursuant to a salary schedule adopted by the Commission.

E. Those personnel listed in subsection B of this section who have entered into contracts with the schools on or before July 1, 1995, shall be entitled to longevity pay as provided in Section 840-2.18 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

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 resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate