

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.

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 paraprofessional teachers play an important role in educating school children and in assisting teachers. The Legislature further recognizes the increasing role of paraprofessional teachers 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 paraprofessional teachers 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 paraprofessional teachers. The purpose of the program is to provide to paraprofessional teachers a system of career development which is based upon education and training advancement, and to furnish economic incentives to encourage excellence among paraprofessional teachers.

For the purposes of this section, a paraprofessional teacher 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 paraprofessional teacher 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 Senate the 1st day of March, 1999.

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President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives