

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 1207

By: Crutchfield of the Senate

and

Staggs and Winchester of  
the House

An Act relating to schools; providing certain bonus to eligible school psychologists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists; directing State Board of Education to pay bonus if funds available; directing State Board of Education to adopt rules which shall include certain criteria; stating school districts not liable for payment of bonus; stating bonus not be included in certain calculation; providing for increase of bonus upon implementation of certain section; creating the Oklahoma School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Audiologist National Certification Revolving Fund; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 6-206 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Board of Education shall provide an annual salary bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) no later than January 31 of each year to the following employees of public school districts:

1. Any school psychologist who has been designated as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist by the National School Psychology Certification Board; and

2. Any speech-language pathologist or audiologist who holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence awarded by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

B. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the provision of the bonus pursuant to this act to include, but not be limited to, a process by which a nationally certified school psychologist, speech-language pathologist and audiologist may verify that:

1. The individual is still employed full-time by a school district;

2. The certification required in subsection A of this section has been attained and has not lapsed; and

3. The individual is licensed to practice in this state.

C. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for purposes of calculating Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma contributions or benefits.

D. The amount of the salary bonus pursuant to subsection A of this section shall be increased to Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) upon implementation of subsection N of Section 6-204.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-206.1 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 School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Audiologist National 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 individuals meeting the requirements of Section 1 of this act. 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 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2004.

Passed the Senate the 6th day of May, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of May, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

