

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 1493

By: Paddack of the Senate

and

Dank of the House

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 3-142), which relates to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; modifying method for determination of funding for charter schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 5-117), which relates to powers and duties of board of education of school districts; prohibiting school boards from contracting with or employing certain attorneys in certain circumstance; providing exceptions; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-105, which relates to substitute teachers; requiring certain training for certain special education substitute teachers; authorizing school districts to request certain waivers; directing State Board of Education to develop procedures for certain waivers; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 127, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 6-194), which relates to professional development programs; adding special education to program requirements; requiring certain training relating to child abuse and neglect; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-153, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 147, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 24-153), which relates to granting of high school diplomas to certain veterans; adding Vietnam war veterans; specifying dates of service; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 3-142), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-142. A. For purposes of funding, a charter school shall be considered a site within the school district in which the

charter school is located ~~and the~~. The student membership of the charter school shall be included in the average daily membership of the school district considered separate from the student membership of the district in which the charter school is located for the purpose of calculating weighted average daily membership pursuant to Section 18-201.1 of this title and state aid pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of this title. The sum of the separate calculations shall be used to determine the total state aid allocation for the district in which the charter school is located. A charter school shall receive from the sponsoring district, ~~for each student, the school district's average local and county revenue which is chargeable in the State Aid formula, state dedicated revenue, and state-appropriated funds per average daily membership~~ the State Aid revenue generated by its students for the applicable year, less up to five percent (5%) of the total, which may be retained by the school district as a fee for administrative services rendered. The State Board of Education shall determine the policy and procedure for making payments to a charter school.

B. The weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation of a charter school shall be determined initially ~~using an estimated student count based on actual registration of students before the beginning of the school year~~ by multiplying the actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by 1.333. ~~After the first nine (9) weeks in session for the first year of operation, the charter school shall revise the average daily membership to equal the actual average daily membership of the charter school. If the average daily membership was overestimated or underestimated, the budget of the school shall be revised~~ The charter school shall receive from its sponsoring district, revenue equal to that which would be generated by the estimated weighted average daily membership. At midyear, the charter school's allocation shall be

adjusted using the school's first quarter weighted average daily membership calculated pursuant to subsection A of this section.

C. A charter school shall be eligible to receive any other aid, grants or revenues allowed to other schools.

D. A charter school, in addition to the money received from the state, may receive money from any other source. Any unexpended nonstate funds, excluding local revenue, may be reserved and used for future purposes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 5-117, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 472, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 5-117), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-117. A. The board of education of each school district shall have power to:

1. Elect its own officers; provided that the chair of the board authorized in Section 5-107B of this title shall be elected by the electors of the school district;

2. Make rules, not inconsistent with the law or rules of the State Board of Education, governing the board and the school system of the district;

3. Maintain and operate a complete public school system of such character as the board of education shall deem best suited to the needs of the school district;

4. Designate the schools to be attended by the children of the district;

5. Provide and operate, when deemed advisable, cafeterias or other eating accommodations, thrift banks or other facilities for the teaching and practice of thrift and economy, bookstores, print shops, and vocational and other shops;

6. Provide informational material concerning school bond elections and millage elections, including but not limited to all pertinent financial information relative to the bond issue, a statement of revenue sources necessary to retire proposed bonds, a

statement of current bonded indebtedness of the school district, and a statement of proposed use of funds to be generated by the proposed bond issue. The informational material shall not contain the words "vote yes" or "vote no" or any similar words or statement any place on such informational material;

7. Purchase, construct or rent, and operate and maintain, classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, recreation places and playgrounds, teacherages, school bus garages, laboratories, administration buildings, and other schoolhouses and school buildings, and acquire sites and equipment therefor;

8. a. Insure the school district or its employees against any loss, damage or liability as defined by Sections 702 through 708 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or other forms of insurance provided for in Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

b. Subject to the restrictions of liability in the Governmental Tort Claims Act:

(1) insure the school district against all or any part of any liability it may incur for death, injury or disability of any person, or for damage to property, either real or personal,

(2) insure any employee of the school district against all or any part of the employee's liability for injury or damage resulting from an act or omission in the scope of employment, or

(3) insure against the expense of defending a claim against the school district or its employee, whether or not liability exists on such claim.

c. As used in this subsection, "employee" means any person who has acted in behalf of a school district, whether that person is acting on a permanent or temporary basis with or without being compensated or

on a full-time or part-time basis. Employee also includes all elected or appointed officers, members of governing bodies of a school district, and persons appointed, and other persons designated by a school district to act in its behalf.

- d. The cost or premium of any such insurance is a proper expenditure of the school district.
- e. Any insurance authorized by law to be purchased, obtained or provided by a school district may be provided by:
 - (1) self-insurance, which may be, but is not required to be, funded by appropriations to establish or maintain reserves for self-insurance purposes. Any self-insurance reserve fund shall be nonfiscal and shall not be considered in computing any levy when the school district makes its annual estimate for needed appropriations,
 - (2) insurance in any insurer authorized to transact insurance in this state,
 - (3) insurance secured in accordance with any other method provided by law, or
 - (4) any combination of insurance authorized by this section.
- f. Two or more school districts or public agencies, by interlocal agreement made pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, may provide insurance for any purpose by any one or more of the methods specified in this section. The pooling of self-insured reserves, claims or losses among governments as authorized in this section shall not be construed to be transacting insurance nor otherwise subject to the provisions of the laws of this state regulating insurance or

insurance companies. Two or more school districts may also be insured under a master policy or contract of insurance. Premium costs may be set individually for each school district or apportioned among participating school districts as provided by the master policy or contract;

9. Acquire property by condemnation proceedings in the same manner as land is condemned for railroad purposes. School district funds may be used to erect buildings on leased land on which other buildings have been erected prior to April 3, 1969, or on land which is leased from a governmental entity;

10. Lease real or personal property to the state or any political subdivision thereof or a not-for-profit entity operating pursuant to Section 868 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes for nominal cash consideration for so long as the use of the property by the lessee substantially benefits, in whole or in part, the same public served by the school district;

11. Dispose of personal or real property no longer needed by the district by sale, exchange, lease, lease-purchase, sale and partial lease back, or otherwise. Real property shall be conveyed pursuant to a public sale, public bid, or private sale; provided however, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the board of education of a consolidated or annexed school district may convey real property to a local political subdivision without consideration. Prior to the sale of any real property, the board of education shall have the real property appraised. The appraisal shall be confidential until the real property is sold. When the real property is sold, the board of education shall make the appraisal available for public inspection. Prior to the conveyance of any real property by private sale, the board of education shall have offered the real property for sale by public sale or public bid. Any conveyance of real property by private sale to a nonprofit

organization, association, or corporation to be used for public purposes, unless for exchange, shall contain a reversionary clause which returns the real property to the board of education upon the cessation of the use without profit or for public purposes by the purchaser or the assigns of the purchaser;

12. Purchase necessary property, equipment, furniture, and supplies necessary to maintain and operate an adequate school system;

13. Incur all expenses, within the limitations provided for by law, necessary to perform all powers granted by the provisions of this section;

14. Contract with and fix the duties and compensation of physicians, dentists, optometrists, nurses, attorneys, superintendents, principals, teachers, bus drivers, janitors, and other necessary employees of the district; provided that the board of education of a school district shall not contract with or employ an attorney to represent the school district in connection with the financing of any property being acquired or improved by the school district if such attorney represents any other party involved in such financing. This prohibition shall not apply to the contracting or employment of an attorney in connection with a contract for the deposit or investment of school district funds in accordance with Oklahoma law;

15. Establish a written policy for reimbursement of necessary travel expenses of employees and members of the board. The policy may include in-district travel from the site of employment assignment which is necessary in the performance of employment duties. The written policy shall specify procedures, contain documentation requirements, and may include payment of meal expenses during authorized travel on a per diem allowance basis rather than itemized documentation;

16. Pay necessary travel expenses and other related expenses of prospective employees for sponsored visits to the school district pursuant to a written policy specifying procedures containing documentation requirements equal to or greater than the requirements specified by law for state employees in the State Travel Reimbursement Act;

17. Provide for employees' leaves of absence without pay;

18. Exercise sole control over all the schools and property of the district, subject to other provisions of the Oklahoma School Code;

19. Allow district-owned school buses to be used for transportation of students from other districts or educational institutions while within the district on educational tours. This shall not restrict the authority of the board to authorize any other use of such buses which may now be permitted by law or rule of the State Board of Education;

20. Enter into contractual agreements with the board of trustees of a multicounty library system, as defined in Section 4-103 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, a city-county library commission, as defined in Section 152 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a rural single county library system, as defined in Section 1-104 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes, on such terms as may be mutually agreed, except no district board of education may enter into any agreement under which the library services for the school would be provided at any site other than the school site or which would result in library services that do not meet accreditation standards as required by law or rule;

21. Perform all functions necessary to the administration of a school district in Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code, and in addition thereto, those powers necessarily implied but not delegated by law to any other agency or official;

22. Prepare and distribute at the expense of the school district any and all material which has the purpose of informing the public about district activities;

23. Solicit and accept any gift, grant, or donation of money or property for the use of the school district. Any gift, grant, or donation of money may be deposited in the general fund or building fund of the school district; and

24. Pay necessary meal and lodging expenses of school district students and sponsors involved in authorized school-sponsored cocurricular activities. The board of education shall establish a written policy for reimbursement of necessary meal and lodging expenses of school district students and sponsors. The written policy shall specify procedures, contain documentation requirements, and designate the funds from which reimbursement may be made. Reimbursement may be made from the General Fund.

B. The board of education of any school district may rent, on a monthly basis, real and personal property, if such items are necessary for the operation of the school, and pay the rental charges for the usage during any fiscal year, or portion thereof, out of appropriations made and approved for current expense purposes during the fiscal year. Any such rental contract extending beyond June 30 of such fiscal year shall be void unless it contains provisions for mutual ratification of renewal pursuant to the conditions provided for in this subsection. It is the intent of this subsection to authorize boards of education to enter into lease contracts but not to incur any obligation against the school district in excess of the income and revenue provided for such purposes for the fiscal year in which such lease contract is operative. Any lease or lease-purchase agreement entered into by any board of education shall state the purchase price of real or personal property so leased. The lease or lease-purchase shall not be extended so as to cause payment of more than the original

purchase price of the real or personal property, plus interest not to exceed the legal rate. When the purchase price plus interest has been paid, the property shall belong to the lessee and the lessor shall deliver a deed or bill of sale to the property to the lessee. When any real or personal property has been leased or rented during any fiscal year pursuant to the provisions of any contract which permits continuance of such rental for the remainder of such fiscal year, the renting or leasing thereof must be continued for the remainder of the fiscal year unless the board of education renting or leasing the same certifies by proper resolution entered in the minutes of the board of education that the continuance of such rental is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest.

C. The boards of education of two or more school districts may enter into cooperative agreements and maintain joint programs including, but not limited to, courses of instruction for handicapped children, courses of instruction in music and other subjects, practical instruction for trades and vocations, practical instruction in driver training courses, and health programs including visual care by persons legally licensed for such purpose, without favoritism as to either profession. The revenues necessary to operate a joint program approved in cooperative agreements, whether from federal, state or local sources, including the individual contributions of participating school districts, shall be deposited into a fund separate from all other appropriated funds. The beginning fund balance each year, combined with all actual revenues, including collected and estimated revenues, must be appropriated before being expended. Purchase orders shall be issued against available appropriations and, once goods or services have been received, either payable or nonpayable warrants shall be issued in payment of all purchase orders. The fund shall be reported as a separate appropriated fund in all the financial reports of the

school district which is chosen by the other school districts to keep the accounting records of the joint program.

D. The boards of education of two or more school districts may enter into a mutual contract or separate contracts with a superintendent, administrator, or teacher or with a person to provide support services, to serve as superintendent, administrator, or teacher, as appropriately qualified, or to provide support services, for each contracting district upon such terms and conditions as the parties may agree. Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize or require annexation or consolidation of any school districts or the closing of any school site except pursuant to law as set forth in Section 7-101 et seq. of this title.

E. Any school district may operate or maintain a school or schools on any military reservation which is within the boundaries of the school district or which is adjacent to the school district, and provide the instruction in the school or schools to children of personnel on the military reservation and, in doing so, shall conform to all federal laws and requirements.

F. The board of education of each school district shall adopt and maintain on file in the office of the superintendent of schools appropriate personnel policy and sick leave guide. The guide shall be made available to the public.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-105, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-105. A. If, because of sickness or other reason, a teacher is temporarily unable to perform regular duties, a substitute teacher may be employed for the position for the time of the absence. A substitute teacher shall be paid in an amount and under such terms as may be agreed upon in advance by the substitute teacher and the board of education or according to regulations of the board. If a teacher is absent for reason of personal business the school district

shall deduct from the salary of the teacher only the amount necessary to pay the substitute.

B. No substitute teacher shall be employed for a total period of time in excess of seventy (70) school days during a school year; or one hundred (100) school days during the school year if the substitute teacher holds a lapsed or expired certificate or has a bachelors level college degree; or no limit of school days during the school year if the substitute teacher holds a valid certificate. Except as provided in this section, a substitute teacher may not be employed for the same assignment for more than twenty (20) school days during a school year unless the substitute teacher holds a valid certificate.

C. Substitute teachers who do not hold a valid certificate and who are employed to teach special education for students with physical disabilities or students with mental retardation shall not be subject to the restrictions on total time a substitute teacher may be employed or the restrictions on time in the same assignment if no certified teachers are available to teach such students and the students would be denied instruction in special education if the substitute teacher were not employed. Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, any substitute teacher employed to teach special education for the same assignment for more than fifteen (15) consecutive or thirty (30) total school days during a school year who does not hold a valid certificate to teach special education shall be required to complete in-service training as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The training shall be provided at no cost to the substitute teacher. Availability of certified teachers shall be determined after the school has consulted the State Board of Education and any other resources for filling the vacant position with a certified teacher.

D. A school district may request a waiver of the restrictions on total time a substitute teacher may be employed or the restrictions

on time in the same assignment from the State Board of Education for a substitute teacher who does not hold a valid certificate. The school district shall submit evidence on the availability of certified substitute teachers and the qualifications of the substitute teacher. The Board shall develop procedures for the filing and processing of substitute teacher waivers pursuant to this subsection.

E. Payment of salary to a substitute shall have no effect on the amount of salary to which the absent regular teacher is entitled under the applicable leave plan.

~~B.~~ F. Any substitute or cadet teacher employed in any school system on a monthly or annual basis shall hold a certificate and have a written contract in the manner and under the same conditions as for regular teachers.

~~C.~~ G. Teachers who are members of the Reserve Forces of the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the Air Force, or any other component of the Armed Forces of the United States, including members of the Air or Army National Guard, shall, when ordered by the proper authority to active duty or service, be entitled to a leave of absence from such civil employment for the period of such active service without loss of status or efficiency rating and without loss of pay during the first thirty (30) days of such leave of absence.

~~D.~~ H. School districts in this state may contract with outside providers for the training and employment of substitute teachers. The State Board of Education shall promulgate guidelines to assist school districts in the sanctioning and approval of an outside provider in accordance with this section.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-194, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 127, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 6-194), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-194. A. The district boards of education of this state shall establish professional development programs for the certified and licensed teachers and administrators of the district. Programs shall be adopted by each board based upon recommendations of a professional development committee appointed by the board of education for the district. The State Board of Education shall disseminate to each district professional development committee a copy of the in-service professional development competencies included in the Report on Educator Preparation and Professional Development issued in December 1994 by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for review and consideration and, if approved by the professional development committee, to be included in part or in whole in the professional development plan of the school district. The professional development centers funded through the State Board of Education shall provide technical assistance to any school district which desires to incorporate any such competencies into its professional development plan.

B. Each professional development committee shall include classroom teachers, administrators and parents, guardians or custodians of children in the school district and shall consult with a higher education faculty. A majority of the members of the professional development committee shall be composed of classroom teachers. The teacher members shall be selected by a designated administrator of the school district from a list of names submitted by the teachers in the school district. The members selected shall be subject to the approval of a majority vote of the teachers in the district. At a minimum, once every four (4) years the committee shall include at least one school counselor in its membership.

C. The professional development programs adopted may include, but not be limited to:

1. In-service training programs;
2. Higher education courses; and

3. Professional development programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

Programs shall emphasize development of competencies in the core curriculum areas. Each program shall include components on classroom management and student discipline strategies, outreach to parents, guardians or custodians of students, special education, and racial and ethnic education, which all personnel defined as teachers in Section 1-116 of this title shall be required to complete on a periodic basis. The State Board of Education shall provide guidelines to assist school districts in developing and implementing racial and ethnic education components into professional development programs. At least once a year a program shall be offered which includes a component of teacher training on recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect which all teachers shall be required to complete. Each adopted program shall allow school counselors to receive at least one-third (1/3) of the hours or credit required each year through programs or courses specifically designed for school counselors. Programs shall be submitted for approval to the Board. No school district shall receive state funds for professional development until the program adopted by the board of education has been approved by the Board.

D. Teachers and administrators who have completed professional development courses in their field of instruction or in courses related to obtaining additional professional qualifications and who complete such courses and receive a grade which is equivalent to at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale may be reimbursed by the school district for one-half (1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at any institution within The Oklahoma State System for Higher Education. If the teacher or administrator incurs costs pursuant to this section at a private institution of higher education, the person may be reimbursed by the school district for an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the general enrollment fees incurred at an

institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type.

E. If funds are made available specifically for such purpose, teachers who have completed professional development programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall receive a stipend based on the amount of funds allocated. No school district shall receive state funds for teacher stipends until such time as proof of the teacher's attendance and completion of the program has been determined by the State Department of Education.

F. Each licensed or certified teacher in this state shall be required by the district board of education to meet the professional development requirements established by the board, or established through the negotiation process. Provided, the professional development requirements established by each board of education shall require every teacher to annually complete a minimum number of the total number of points required to maintain employment. Failure of any teacher to meet district board of education professional development requirements may be grounds for nonrenewal of such teacher's contract by the board. Such failure may also be grounds for nonconsideration of salary increments affecting the teacher.

G. The professional development plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education as provided in Section 3-104.2 et seq. of this title.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-153, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 147, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 24-153), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-153. A. In order to recognize and pay tribute to veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II ~~or to serve~~, in the Korean War, or in the Vietnam War, a board of education of any independent school district in this state is hereby authorized to grant a diploma of graduation to any veteran who meets the requirements as listed in subsection B of this

section. School districts are further encouraged to present such diplomas in conjunction with appropriate Veterans Day programs.

B. To be eligible for a high school diploma pursuant to this section, a veteran shall:

1. Have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America;

2. Have served on active duty or have been discharged with a service-connected disability between the dates of September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, or between the dates of June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, or between the dates of May 13, 1961, and April 29, 1975; and

3. Be a resident of the State of Oklahoma.

C. The State Board of Education shall consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs in adopting rules to implement the provisions of this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

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.

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