

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1422

By: Kiesel

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 698.3, which relates to teacher shortage employment incentive program; expanding the teacher shortage employment incentive program to all areas of education; deleting references to certain subject areas; 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 698.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 698.3 A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that, beginning with the ~~2001-2002~~ 2005-2006 school year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education establish a teacher ~~shortage~~ employment incentive program for students enrolled in a major course of study in ~~mathematics or science~~ education at the undergraduate level or graduate level who declare an intention to serve and who subsequently serve this state by teaching in a ~~secondary level~~ public school of this state for a minimum of five (5) years ~~in the subject areas of mathematics or science~~. Students meeting the criteria provided in this section shall be given the opportunity to enter into participation in the program.

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the provisions of this section to persons who actually render a minimum of five (5) years of service as teachers in the public schools of this state ~~if not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the~~

~~teaching assignment meets the criteria specified in subsection A of this section.~~ The total amount of the employment incentive payments for any qualified person shall not exceed an amount equal to three times the average annual cost of undergraduate resident tuition and fees for full-time enrollment at institutions which offer teacher education programs within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, as defined by the State Regents. Any amount not necessary to repay the balance of a student's loan(s) shall be paid directly to any person otherwise eligible for employment incentive payments pursuant to this section.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible persons. Persons failing to comply with the requirements of this section shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments provided for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, with approval of the State Regents, may contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

D. If insufficient funds are available for employment incentive payments to qualified persons during any fiscal year, the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to those qualifying.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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.

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