

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 500

By: Myers of the Senate

and

(Luttrell) of the House

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9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 [schools - Oklahoma Educational Interpreter for the
11 Deaf Act - effective date - emergency]

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 220, O.S.L.
16 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 13-115.3), is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 Section 13-115.3 ~~A. Except as otherwise provided in this~~
19 ~~section, any~~ Any person who functions as an educational interpreter
20 in a public school shall have the interpersonal skills to work
21 effectively and collaboratively with staff and students within the
22 instructional setting as well as a comprehensive, general knowledge
23 of academic subjects and current events, educational processes and
24 organization, principles and practices of special education, aspects

1 and issues of deaf culture, and have met a minimum of two (2) of the
2 following requirements:

- 3 1. Completed an interpreter training program;
- 4 2. Attained a bachelor's degree; or
- 5 3. Worked three (3) or more years in an area related to the
6 field of deaf education.

7 ~~B. In addition to the requirements of subsection A of this~~
8 ~~section, a person who functions as an educational interpreter in a~~
9 ~~public school shall attain one or more of the following:~~

- 10 1. ~~Certification by the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf~~
11 ~~(RID);~~
- 12 2. ~~National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Level IV or better;~~
- 13 3. ~~Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Level III or better;~~
14 ~~or~~
- 15 4. ~~A comparable level of proficiency.~~

16 ~~It shall be desirable for an educational interpreter to hold~~
17 ~~either a bachelor's or associate's degree.~~

18 ~~C. A person who has never worked as an educational interpreter~~
19 ~~in any public school, who meets the requirements as provided in~~
20 ~~subsection A of this section, who does not meet the requirements of~~
21 ~~subsection B of this section, and who has attained the Quality~~
22 ~~Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Level I or II, may be employed as an~~
23 ~~educational interpreter for up to three (3) years. The person shall~~
24 ~~not be eligible to be employed as an educational interpreter in any~~

1 ~~public school of this state after the third year until the person~~
2 ~~attains one of the proficiency levels as provided in subsection B of~~
3 ~~this section.~~

4 ~~D. Any educational interpreter employed by a public school on~~
5 ~~the effective date of this act who does not meet the requirements of~~
6 ~~subsection B of this section shall be required to attain QAST Level~~
7 ~~I or a comparable level of proficiency by July 1, 2004. An~~
8 ~~educational interpreter shall have until July 1, 2006, to meet the~~
9 ~~requirements of subsections A and B of this section or a comparable~~
10 ~~level of proficiency.~~

11 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 220, O.S.L.
12 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 13-115.4), is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Section 13-115.4 The State Department of Education shall adopt
15 rules to implement the provisions of this act in collaboration with
16 the State Department of Rehabilitation Services. The State
17 Department of Education shall:

18 1. Maintain a registry of individuals who meet the
19 qualifications as educational interpreters as set forth in this act;
20 and

21 2. Establish a system of and requirements for continuing
22 education. Such system shall require completion of ~~the~~ a minimum
23 ~~QAST~~ of ten (10) continuing education units per year, in which fifty
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1 percent (50%) of such units include training in educational
2 interpreting.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 311, O.S.L.
4 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-206), is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 Section 6-206. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the
7 State Board of Education shall provide an annual salary bonus in the
8 amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) no later than January 31
9 of each year to the following employees of public school districts:

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

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

16 3. Any educational interpreter who has achieved National
17 Interpreter Certification awarded by the National Association of the
18 Deaf-Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (NAD-RID) National
19 Council on Interpreting.

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

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

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

5 3. The individual is licensed to practice in this state, if
6 required.

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

12 D. The amount of the salary bonus pursuant to subsection A of
13 this section shall be increased to Seven Thousand Dollars
14 (\$7,000.00) upon implementation of subsection N of Section 6-204.2
15 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

16 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 311, O.S.L.
17 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-206.1), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 6-206.1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a
20 revolving fund for the State Board of Education to be designated the
21 "Oklahoma School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, ~~and~~
22 Audiologist, and Educational Interpreter National Certification
23 Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject
24 to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies

1 appropriated or transferred to the fund by the Legislature. All
2 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated
3 and may be budgeted and expended by the State Board of Education to
4 provide an annual bonus for individuals meeting the requirements of
5 Section ~~±~~ 6-206 of this ~~act~~ title. Expenditures from the fund shall
6 be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
7 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of State Finance for
8 approval and payment.

9 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2007.

10 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
11 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
13 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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