

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1508

By: Christian and Blackwell of  
the House

3 and

4 Reynolds of the Senate

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8 ( higher education - amending 70 O.S., Section  
9 698.3 - teacher shortage employment incentive  
10 program - effective date -

11 emergency )

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 698.3, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 698.3 A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature  
18 that, ~~beginning with the 2001-2002 school year,~~ the Oklahoma State  
19 Regents for Higher Education establish a teacher shortage employment  
20 incentive program for students enrolled:

21 1. Enrolled in a major course of study in mathematics or  
22 science at the undergraduate level or graduate level who declare an  
23 intention to serve and who subsequently serve this state by teaching

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1 in a secondary level public school of this state for a minimum of  
2 five (5) years in the subject areas of mathematics or science; and

3 2. Who have completed an undergraduate degree and are enrolled  
4 in a graduate level of study in mathematics or science who declare  
5 an intention to serve and who subsequently serve this state by  
6 teaching at a regional university or two-year college within The  
7 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for a minimum of five (5)  
8 years in the subject areas of mathematics or science.

9 B. Students meeting the criteria provided in subsection A of  
10 this section this section shall be given the opportunity to enter  
11 into participation in the program.

12 ~~B.~~ C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are  
13 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the  
14 provisions of this section to persons who actually render a minimum  
15 of five (5) years of service as teachers in the public schools of  
16 this state or at regional universities or two-year colleges within  
17 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education if not less than  
18 seventy-five percent (75%) of the teaching assignment meets the  
19 criteria specified in subsection A of this section. The total  
20 amount of the employment incentive payments for any qualified person  
21 shall not exceed an amount equal to three times the average annual  
22 cost of undergraduate or graduate resident tuition and fees for  
23 full-time enrollment at institutions which offer teacher education  
24 programs within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, as

1 defined by the State Regents. Any amount not necessary to repay the  
2 loan balance of a ~~student's loan(s)~~ student shall be paid directly  
3 to any person otherwise eligible for employment incentive payments  
4 pursuant to this section.

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

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

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

18 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
19 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2009.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

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6 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate