

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 23, 2009

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 1680

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1680 - By: OWNBEY of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-204.2), which relate to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act; deleting certain classroom requirement; modifying requirement for bonus; directing the State Board of Education to provide certain bonus to School Licensed Professional Counselors; directing the Board to adopt rules to verify employment and licensing status; providing for pro rata reduction of bonus; limiting liability of a school district for payment of the bonuses; excluding bonus from certain calculations; providing for increase in the bonus upon implementation of certain conditions; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, as last amended
2 by Section 1, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-204.2), is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 Section 6-204.2 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission
5 for Teacher Preparation and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the
6 Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

7 B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program are:

1 1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about National Board
2 certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma program scholarships and
3 services;

4 2. Provide technical assistance and National Board certified mentors to all teachers
5 seeking National Board certification upon request;

6 3. Provide scholarships, pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and
7 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules, for teachers seeking National
8 Board certification;

9 4. Provide a bonus to teachers who achieve National Board certification pursuant to
10 the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and State Board of Education rules;

11 5. Reward teachers who achieve National Board certification without the financial
12 support of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program by awarding them the
13 application fee and the amount of the scholarship given to Education Leadership
14 Oklahoma participants pursuant to this section and commission rules; and

15 6. Provide recognition to National Board certified teachers.

16 C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act, the
17 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

18 1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program and the
19 scholarships and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board certification,
20 emphasizing recruiting efforts toward teachers at high-poverty schools, low-achieving
21 schools and in counties with the lowest percentage of teachers who have achieved
22 National Board certification;

1 2. Collect and review applications to the scholarship program from interested
2 teachers;

3 3. Establish an applicant review committee for the purpose of identifying
4 scholarship recipients pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act for the
5 Education Leadership Oklahoma program; and

6 4. Ensure that all scholarship recipients, alternates, and teachers seeking National
7 Board certification independently receive adequate information regarding the level of
8 commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

9 D. The applicant review committee shall:

10 1. Consist of:

11 a. five ~~classroom~~ teachers appointed by the State Board of Education, at
12 least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if
13 available,

14 b. five ~~classroom~~ teachers appointed by the Oklahoma Commission for
15 Teacher Preparation, at least one of whom shall be a National Board
16 certified teacher, if available,

17 c. three ~~classroom~~ teachers appointed by the Oklahoma State Regents for
18 Higher Education, at least one of whom shall be a National Board
19 certified teacher, if available, and

20 d. a chair to be designated by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma
21 Commission for Teacher Preparation from among the appointed
22 members; and

1 2. Select up to four hundred teachers each year, of whom a minimum of twenty-five
2 percent (25%) teach at schools on the school improvement list as determined by the State
3 Board of Education pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act or schools with more than
4 fifty percent (50%) of students who qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program,
5 and the appropriate number of alternates, who:

- 6 a. have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching,
- 7 b. meet all eligibility requirements for potential certification as
8 established by the National Board for Professional Teaching
9 Standards,
- 10 c. are employed in an Oklahoma public school, and
- 11 d. meet other requirements of the Commission.

12 E. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
13 purposes of this subsection, the application fee for National Board certification shall be
14 paid for scholarship recipients by the Commission, and scholarship recipients shall be
15 provided a scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover other
16 expenses associated with obtaining National Board certification.

17 F. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
18 Preparation contract with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to establish
19 Education Leadership Oklahoma program training in higher education teacher
20 preparation programs in the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to
21 obtain National Board certification.

1 G. All teachers seeking National Board certification shall be eligible to participate
2 in Education Leadership Oklahoma program training to assist them in meeting the
3 requirements of the National Board certification process, free of charge.

4 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall promulgate rules for
5 the selection of scholarship recipients, the selection and utilization of alternates, the
6 payment and reimbursement of application fees, and the issuance of scholarships.

7 I. Subject to district board of education policy or collective bargaining agreement,
8 additional professional leave days may be granted to teachers seeking National Board
9 certification for National Board certification portfolio development. During the two (2)
10 days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for National Board
11 certification portfolio development, a substitute teacher shall be provided by the school
12 district at no cost to the teacher.

13 J. The State Board of Education shall provide all teachers who attain National
14 Board certification a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) annually
15 no later than January 31 for as long as they maintain their National Board certification
16 and are ~~teaching in the classroom~~ full-time teachers in an Oklahoma public school. No
17 school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section.

18 K. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for
19 purposes of meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for purposes of
20 compensating Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

1 L. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for the provision of the
2 bonus pursuant to this section to include, but not be limited to, a process by which a
3 National Board certified teacher will verify that:

- 4 1. The National Board certification has not lapsed; and
- 5 2. The teacher is still a full-time teacher.

6 M. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
7 Education incorporate the National Board certification portfolio development into all
8 programs in education leading to a master's level degree.

9 N. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection O of this
10 section, the State Board of Education shall provide all teachers who attain National
11 Board certification a bonus in the amount of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00)
12 annually no later than January 31 for as long as they maintain their National Board
13 certification and are full-time teachers in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school
14 district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section. Upon
15 implementation, the bonus provided for in this subsection shall replace the bonus
16 provided for in subsection J of this section.

17 O. Implementation of subsection N of this section shall be contingent upon the
18 appropriation by the Legislature of state funds for the specific purpose of implementing
19 subsection N of this section. Nothing in this section shall prevent the State Board of
20 Education or a school district board of education from utilizing private, local, or federal
21 funds to implement subsection N of this section.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
2 Statutes as Section 6-204.6 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in
3 numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the State Board of Education shall provide
5 an annual salary bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) no later than
6 January 31 of each year to school counselors licensed as Professional Counselors by the
7 State Department of Health.

8 B. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the provision of the bonus
9 pursuant to this section to include, but not be limited to, a process by which a school
10 counselor licensed as a Professional Counselor may verify that:

- 11 1. The individual is still employed by a school district;
- 12 2. The licensing required in subsection A of this section has been attained and has
13 not lapsed; and
- 14 3. The individual is licensed to practice in this state.

15 C. An individual who qualifies for the bonus pursuant to this section and who is
16 employed by a school district on less than a full-time basis, shall receive a prorated bonus
17 based on the proportionate equivalency to full-time employment.

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

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

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

5 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
6 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
7 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-19-09
9 - DO PASS, As Amended.