

Committee Substitute for  
ENGROSSED

House Bill No. 1508

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1508 - By:  
Christian and Blackwell of the House and Reynolds of the Senate.

[ higher education - amending 70 O.S., Section 698.3 -  
teacher shortage employment incentive program - effective  
date -

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 school year,~~ the Oklahoma State  
Regents for Higher Education establish a teacher shortage employment  
incentive program for students enrolled:

1. Enrolled in a major course of study in mathematics or  
science 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; or

2. Who have completed an undergraduate degree and are enrolled  
in a graduate level of study in mathematics or science who declare

1 an intention to serve and who subsequently serve this state by  
2 teaching full time at a regional university or two-year college  
3 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education for a minimum  
4 of five (5) years in the subject areas of mathematics or science.

5 B. Students meeting the criteria provided in subsection A of  
6 this section shall be given the opportunity to enter into  
7 participation in the program.

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

1 ~~loan(s)~~ student shall be paid directly to any person otherwise  
2 eligible for employment incentive payments pursuant to this section.

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

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

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

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

20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 4-1-09 - DO  
21 PASS, As Amended.