

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1508

By: Blackwell

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to higher education; amending 70 O.S.  
8 2001, Section 698.3, which relates to the teacher  
9 shortage employment incentive program; expanding  
10 program to certain students agreeing to work at  
11 certain higher education institutions; requiring  
12 minimum service requirement; providing an effective  
13 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

1 to any person otherwise eligible for employment incentive payments  
2 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.

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