

SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB2372 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Adopted: _____

Amendment submitted by: Steve Vaughan _____

Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2372

By: Vaughan

PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Act; providing short title; establishing the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program; directing the State Regents for Higher Education to administer the program; setting forth benefits of the program; providing eligibility criteria; requiring execution of certain agreement; providing for agreement forms; providing for reimbursement of certain fees; allowing the State Regents for Higher Education to waive certain requirements; providing for tuition reimbursement upon meeting certain criteria; stating purpose of tuition reimbursement payments; providing limits for tuition reimbursements; providing for distribution; requiring certain confirmation of employment; creating the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Revolving Fund; stating source of funding; providing for use of funds; providing for payments upon warrants; directing promulgation of rules; 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. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 699.1 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
5 Teacher Retention Act".

6 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 699.2 of Title 70, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 A. 1. There is hereby established the Oklahoma Teacher
10 Retention Program. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
11 shall administer the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program.

12 2. The program shall provide assistance to students who meet
13 the criteria set forth in subsection B of this section and who
14 execute an agreement as set forth in subsection C of this section.

15 B. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Teacher
16 Retention Program during the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, a
17 student shall:

18 1. Have completed the first two (2) years or equivalent number
19 of hours to have sophomore standing and achieved a minimum
20 cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

21 2. Have passed the general education examination approved by
22 the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and been
23 accepted at an accredited college of education at an institution
24 within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

1 3. Have submitted an application on a form provided by the
2 State Regents for Higher Education and been approved by the State
3 Regents.

4 C. Students who meet the criteria set forth in subsection B of
5 this section shall execute an agreement stating that the student
6 shall:

7 1. Agree to earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited college
8 of education at an institution within The Oklahoma State System of
9 Higher Education;

10 2. Take a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours within twelve (12)
11 months of the date of acceptance into the Oklahoma Teacher Retention
12 Program;

13 3. Complete the junior and senior years of the student within
14 thirty-six (36) months of the date of acceptance into the Oklahoma
15 Teacher Retention Program;

16 4. Maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of not
17 less than 3.0 on a 4.0 scale through the senior year of the student;

18 5. Agree to obtain a standard Oklahoma teaching certificate;
19 and

20 6. Agree to teach at an Oklahoma public school for not less
21 than five (5) consecutive years.

22 D. Agreements executed as provided for in subsection C of this
23 section shall be on forms provided by the State Regents for Higher
24 Education who shall verify compliance with the agreements. The date

1 upon which the agreement is executed shall be the "date of
2 acceptance" for the purposes of this program.

3 E. If a participant in the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program
4 is prevented from meeting any of the requirements set forth in the
5 Oklahoma Teacher Retention Act due to factors beyond the control of
6 the participant, the State Regents for Higher Education may
7 temporarily waive the relevant requirements. The State Regents may
8 rescind any award granted to a participant in the Oklahoma Teacher
9 Retention Program if the participant does not maintain eligibility
10 as set forth in this section.

11 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 699.3 of Title 70, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. Subject to the availability of funds, a participant in the
15 Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program shall be eligible to receive
16 tuition reimbursement assistance awards as provided for in this
17 section if the participant:

18 1. Graduates from an accredited college of education at an
19 institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

20 2. Receives a standard certificate to teach pursuant to the
21 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; and

22 3. Executes a contract to teach at a public school district in
23 Oklahoma.
24

1 B. Tuition reimbursement assistance awards shall be for the
2 purpose of paying the tuition and fees debt of the participant. An
3 amount equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of the nonguaranteed
4 resident tuition and generally applicable fees for which an eligible
5 participant in the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program is obligated
6 shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Teacher Retention
7 Revolving Fund created in Section 4 of this act. Each award of
8 tuition reimbursement assistance shall be distributed at the end of
9 each school year during which the participant taught at an Oklahoma
10 public school. The total number of awards shall not exceed five for
11 each participant.

12 C. A tuition reimbursement assistance award as provided for in
13 this section shall not be allowed for tuition and fees incurred for
14 courses or other postsecondary units taken more than thirty-six (36)
15 months from the date of acceptance into the Oklahoma Teacher
16 Retention Program.

17 D. Tuition reimbursement assistance awards granted pursuant to
18 the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program shall be awarded to all
19 eligible participants without any limitation on the number of awards
20 in any year other than the amount of funds available for the program
21 and the number of eligible applicants. If funds are not sufficient
22 to provide awards for all eligible participants, available funds
23 shall be distributed on a pro rata basis.
24

1 E. For the purposes of this section, the State Regents for
2 Higher Education shall confirm the status of a participant in the
3 Oklahoma Teacher Retention Program by obtaining from the participant
4 proof of employment from the contracting school district.

5 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 699.4 of Title 70, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
9 for the State Regents for Higher Education to be designated the
10 "Oklahoma Teacher Retention Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
11 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
12 consist of all monies appropriated or transferred to the fund by the
13 Legislature or contributions made to it by any person or entity.
14 All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
15 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma State
16 Regents for Higher Education to meet the obligations set forth in
17 the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Act. Expenditures from the fund
18 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against
19 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
20 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

21 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 699.5 of Title 70, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
24

1 The State Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate rules to
2 implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher Retention Act.

3 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

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

8
9 55-2-9014 KB 02/10/16