

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2951

By: Rogers and Coody (Ann) of
the House

3 and

4 Bice of the Senate
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8 An Act relating to schools; directing the State
9 Department of Education and the Oklahoma State
10 Regents for Higher Education to develop and implement
11 teacher recruitment programs; requiring distribution
12 of materials; giving certain programs priority;
13 encouraging business community and school districts
14 to cooperate in developing certain programs;
15 encouraging certain associations to cooperate in
16 developing certain programs; making actions
17 contingent upon funding; providing for codification;
18 and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-131 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department of
Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
working in cooperation, shall:

1. Develop and implement programs to identify talented students
and recruit those students and other persons into the teaching

1 profession. Persons targeted for recruitment may include, but are
2 not limited to, high school and undergraduate students, mid-career
3 and retired professionals, honorably discharged and retired military
4 personnel and members of underrepresented gender and ethnic groups;

5 2. Develop and distribute materials that emphasize the
6 importance of the teaching profession and inform individuals about
7 state-funded loan forgiveness and tuition assistance programs;

8 3. Give priority to developing and implementing recruitment
9 programs to address the areas of teacher shortage identified in and
10 the recommendations made in the educator supply-and-demand study as
11 required by Section 6-211 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The
12 Department may use discretionary funds to carry out the provisions
13 of this paragraph;

14 4. Encourage cooperation between the business community and
15 school districts to develop recruitment programs designed to attract
16 and retain capable teachers, including programs to provide summer
17 employment opportunities for teachers; and

18 5. Encourage major education associations to cooperate in
19 developing a long-range program promoting teaching as a prestigious,
20 respected and desirable career and to assist in identifying local
21 activities and resources that may be used to promote the teaching
22 profession.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2016.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2016.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate