

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

SENATE BILL 15

By: Bice

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; directing the State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to develop and implement teacher recruitment programs; requiring distribution of materials; giving certain programs priority; encouraging business community and school districts to cooperate in developing certain programs; encouraging certain associations to cooperate in developing certain programs; making actions contingent upon funding; creating the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving Fund; specifying sources of fund; providing for expenditures; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 and the
10 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.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-132 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of the fee authorized by Section 1
5 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 14 of the 1st Session of the 56th
6 Oklahoma Legislature, for Oklahoma License to Educate license plates
7 shall be deposited to the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving
8 Fund created in subsection B of this section.

9 B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
10 fund for the State Department of Education to be designated the
11 "Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
12 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
13 consist of all monies received by the State Department of Education
14 pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of this section and any
15 donations, grants and gifts from any public or private source. All
16 monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated
17 and may be budgeted and expended by the State Department of
18 Education for the purpose of operating teacher recruitment programs.
19 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
20 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
21 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
22 approval and payment.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.
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1 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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