

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 240

By: Pittman

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 6-129.1, which relates to the Minority
9 Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; modifying
10 name of committee; deleting sunset date; amending 70
11 O.S. 2011, Section 6-130, which relates to the
12 Minority Teacher Recruitment Center; modifying name
13 of center; providing additional duties for the
14 center; providing definitions; directing the
15 center to award grants; establishing eligibility
16 requirements for grants; prohibiting use of funds to
17 supplant certain funds; directing program budgets to
18 include certain costs; allowing institutions of
19 higher education to use grant funds for certain
20 expenses; allowing community organizations to expend
21 grant funds for certain purposes; allowing a school
22 district or school employee union to receive grant
23 funds for certain purposes; allowing expenditure of
24 funds for certain salary; allowing use of grant funds
for certain classes; allowing use of grant funds for
planning grants; providing for codification;
providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-129.1, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 6-129.1. A. There is hereby ~~re-created until July 1,~~
24 ~~2010, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law,~~ created a Minority

1 ~~Teacher~~ Teachers of Color Recruitment Advisory Committee which shall
2 have oversight over implementation of the ~~Minority Teacher~~ Teachers
3 of Color Recruitment Center and shall advise the operation of such
4 Center. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of nineteen (19)
5 members. The presence of ten Advisory Committee members or their
6 designees shall constitute a quorum. Appointments shall be made by
7 July 1 with members serving a term of two (2) years unless no longer
8 eligible. The Advisory Committee members shall be appointed as
9 follows:

10 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

11 a. two members from the Oklahoma House of
12 Representatives,

13 b. two members from an institution of higher education in
14 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. One
15 appointee shall be from a comprehensive university.
16 One appointee shall be from a two-year college,

17 c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a
18 ~~minority~~ person of color,

19 d. one member who is a superintendent or designee of a
20 public school district, and

21 e. two members representing a community with a high
22 ~~minority~~ population of color. One appointee shall be
23 African-American. One appointee shall be Hispanic;

24 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:

- a. two members from the Oklahoma State Senate,
- b. two members from an institution of higher education in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with a teacher preparation program. One appointee shall be from a regional university,
- c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a ~~minority~~ person of color,
- d. one member who is a principal of a public high school, and
- e. two members representing a community with a high ~~minority~~ population of color. One appointee shall be American Indian. One appointee shall be ~~Asian-~~ American Native American/American Indian;

3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;

4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee; and

5. The Executive Director of the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee.

B. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed for attendance at the Advisory Committee meetings by the appointing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act or Section 456

1 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Members of the Advisory
2 Committee shall designate from among the members a ~~chairperson~~ chair
3 and ~~vice-chairperson~~ vice chair. Staff assistance shall be provided
4 by the ~~Minority Teacher~~ Teachers of Color Recruitment Center.

5 C. Persons who are members on the effective date of this act
6 shall retain their membership until their terms are completed.

7 D. The ~~Minority Teacher~~ Teachers of Color Recruitment Advisory
8 Committee shall:

9 1. Make recommendations on the annual operating budget of the
10 ~~Minority Teacher~~ Teachers of Color Recruitment Center and verify
11 that the funds allocated to the Center through the Oklahoma State
12 Regents for Higher Education are utilized exclusively by the Center
13 by function;

14 2. Advise the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of
15 unmet needs within the state in the implementation of the Center's
16 activities;

17 3. Annually comment publicly on the progress of the Center;

18 4. Assist the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in
19 developing and reporting information about the Center when
20 necessary;

21 5. Meet as often as necessary to conduct business; and

22 6. Keep official minutes of the Committee meetings which shall
23 be made available to the public upon request.

1 E. As used in this section and Section 6-130 of this title,
2 ~~"minority"~~ "person of color" means a person who is a lawful resident
3 of the State of Oklahoma and who is:

4 1. African-American, a person having origins in any of the
5 black racial groups of Africa;

6 2. Hispanic, a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central
7 or South American descent;

8 3. Asian-American, a person having origins in any of the
9 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian
10 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; or

11 4. American Indian and Alaskan Native, a person having origins
12 in any of the original peoples of North America.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-130, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-130. Recognizing the future significance and
16 challenge of educating a growing and highly diverse student
17 population in Oklahoma common schools and acknowledging the
18 underrepresentation of ~~minority~~ teachers of color among the state's
19 professional education staff, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
20 Education shall ~~have authority to~~ establish the ~~Minority Teacher~~
21 Teachers of Color Recruitment Center and staff and administer its
22 work. Upon recommendations and advice from the ~~Minority Teacher~~
23 Teachers of Color Recruitment Advisory Committee ~~re-created~~ created
24 pursuant to Section ~~4~~ 6-129.1 of this ~~act~~ title, the Oklahoma State

1 Regents for Higher Education are hereby directed to work with the
2 State Board of Education, the ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher~~
3 ~~Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability
4 and other agencies, boards and education organizations in the
5 interests of recruiting, retaining and placing ~~minority~~ teachers of
6 color in the public schools of the State of Oklahoma. Such efforts
7 shall include, but not be limited to:

8 1. The provision and coordination of support services to
9 teacher training programs in state institutions of higher education,
10 including the funding of grants for campus-based recruitment,
11 retention and placement programs that assist ~~minority~~ students of
12 color who intend to become teachers;

13 2. The establishment and development of recruiting programs for
14 potential ~~minority~~ teachers of color, including pre-collegiate
15 curricular courses that emphasize school success and the opportunity
16 to investigate teaching as a career choice, future teacher clubs and
17 collegiate programs designed to recruit students making transitions
18 from other careers and other areas of study;

19 3. The hosting of conferences dealing with issues that ~~effect~~
20 affect ~~minority teacher~~ teachers of color recruitment, retention,
21 and placement;

22 4. The creation of activities in the public and private schools
23 of Oklahoma which enhance the image of the teaching profession; ~~and~~
24

1 5. The creation and development of placement services providing
2 assistance to both ~~minority~~ educators of color and school districts
3 seeking to hire qualified ~~minority~~ teachers of color;

4 6. Requiring each public teacher education program in this
5 state to prepare a plan with specific goals, strategies and
6 deadlines for the recruitment, admission, retention and graduation
7 of teachers of color;

8 7. The provision and coordination of mentoring and induction
9 programs in school districts for teachers of color, particularly for
10 school districts in which at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the
11 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches and
12 for teaching positions such as special education, bilingual
13 education, mathematics or science that have been identified as a
14 critical need by the local school board. These programs shall
15 include culturally relevant teaching strategies for new teachers;

16 8. The establishment and administration of a loan forgiveness
17 program for loans that covered any portion of tuition, books and
18 fees of teachers of color who complete five (5) years of service in
19 schools that serve a substantial percentage of low-income students,
20 with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of service. The
21 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall establish
22 standards for the approval of loan forgiveness requests and provide
23 the necessary funds to forgive eligible educators' loans;

1 9. The establishment and development of financial and other
2 additional supports to assist public school paraprofessionals in the
3 completion of the career and development program pursuant to Section
4 6-127A of this title; and

5 10. The establishment and administration of a "Grow Your Own"
6 grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow Your
7 Own Teacher preparation programs to recruit and prepare parents,
8 community leaders and paraprofessionals to become effective
9 teachers, as provided for in Section 3 of this act.

10 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-131 of Title 70, unless there
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. As used in this section:

14 1. "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who
15 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and are
16 linked by their desire to become teachers in hard-to-staff schools
17 and by their need for the services and supports offered by the
18 initiative;

19 2. "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization that
20 has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop and organize parent
21 and community leaders into a constituency that will hold the school
22 and school district accountable for achieving high academic
23 standards. In addition to organizations with a geographic focus,
24 "community organization" shall include general parent organizations,

1 organizations of special education or bilingual education parents
2 and school employee unions;

3 3. "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill areas,
4 such as mathematics and language arts, that are prerequisite to but
5 not counted towards degree requirements of a teacher preparation
6 program;

7 4. "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle or
8 secondary school in this state that serves a substantial percentage
9 of low-income students and that is either hard to staff or has hard-
10 to-staff teaching positions;

11 5. "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle or
12 secondary school in this state in which at least thirty-five percent
13 (35%) of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price
14 lunches;

15 6. "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching category,
16 such as special education, bilingual education, mathematics or
17 science that has been identified as a critical need by the local
18 school board;

19 7. "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has or
20 had a child enrolled in a school or schools that meet the definition
21 of a hard-to-staff school under this section and who has a history
22 of active involvement in the school or who has a history of working
23 to improve schools, including membership in a community
24 organization; and

1 8. "Program" means a Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program
2 established by a consortium pursuant to this section.

3 B. The Teachers of Color Recruitment Center shall award grants
4 to qualified consortia that meet the following requirements:

5 1. A consortium shall be composed of at least a four-year
6 institution of higher education with a teacher preparation program,
7 at least one school district or group of schools and one or more
8 community organizations. The consortium membership may also include
9 a two-year institution of higher education or a school employee
10 union;

11 2. The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set of
12 eligible schools that will participate in the program. The
13 consortium shall articulate the steps that it will carry out in
14 preparing teachers for its participating schools and in preparing
15 teachers for one or more hard-to-staff teaching positions in those
16 schools;

17 3. A candidate in a program must hold a high school diploma or
18 its equivalent, must meet either the definition of "parent and
19 community leader" or the definition of "public school
20 paraprofessional," and does not hold a bachelor's degree;

21 4. The consortium shall employ effective procedures for
22 teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare highly effective
23 teachers. Professional preparation shall include ongoing direct
24 experience in target schools and evaluation of this experience;

1 5. The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts of
2 candidates on a schedule that enables the candidates to work full
3 time while participating in the program and allows paraprofessionals
4 to continue in their current positions. In any fiscal year in which
5 an appropriation is made, the consortium shall guarantee that
6 support will be available to an admitted cohort for the cohort's
7 education for that fiscal year; and

8 6. The institutions of higher education participating in the
9 consortium shall document and agree to expand the same amount of
10 funds in implementing the program that these institutions spend per
11 student on similar educational programs. Grants received by the
12 consortium shall supplement and not supplant these amounts.

13 C. Every program shall implement a program of forgivable loans
14 to cover any portion of tuition, books and fees of candidates under
15 the program in excess of the candidates' grants-in-aid. All
16 students admitted to a cohort shall be eligible for a forgivable
17 student loan. Loans shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes
18 five (5) years of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff
19 teaching positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of
20 service.

21 D. The Teachers of Color Recruitment Center shall award grants
22 in such a way as to provide the required support for a cohort of
23 candidates for any fiscal year in which an appropriation is made.
24

1 Program budgets shall show expenditures and needed funds for the
2 entire period that candidates are expected to be enrolled.

3 E. No funds may be used to supplant the average per-capita
4 expenditures by the institution of higher education for candidates.

5 F. Where necessary, program budgets shall include the costs of
6 child care and other indirect expenses, such as transportation,
7 tutoring, technology and technology support, necessary to permit
8 candidates to maintain their class schedules. Grant funds may be
9 used by any member of a consortium to offset such costs, and the
10 services may be provided by the community organization or
11 organizations, by any other member of the consortium or by
12 independent contractors.

13 G. The institution of higher education may expend grant funds
14 to cover the additional costs of offering classes in community
15 settings and for tutoring services.

16 H. The community organization or organizations may receive a
17 portion of the grant money for the expenses of recruitment,
18 community orientation and counseling of potential candidates; for
19 providing space in the community; and for working with school
20 personnel to facilitate individual work experiences and support of
21 candidates.

22 I. The school district or school employee union, or both, may
23 receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of supporting the
24 work experiences of candidates and providing mentors for graduates.

1 J. One or more members of the consortium may expend funds to
2 cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

3 K. Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for
4 required developmental or remedial classes for candidates beginning
5 a program.

6 L. The Teachers of Color Recruitment Center may, if it chooses,
7 award a small number of planning grants during any fiscal year to
8 potential consortia.

9 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

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

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