

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 597

By: Dahm

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school employee organizations;
8 prohibiting certain existing organizations from
9 continuing to represent certain employees; requiring
10 a school district board of education to direct
11 certain election to certify the existing
12 organization; directing the board of education to
13 determine how the election shall be conducted;
14 authorizing the board of education to establish a fee
15 schedule to fund the election; providing for
16 decertification of an organization if it fails to
17 receive a sufficient number of votes; providing for
18 continuation of certain terms of certain contract if
19 an organization is decertified; allowing school
20 district employees to certify a new employee
21 organization under certain circumstances; requiring
22 elections to be held during certain time frame;
23 providing for codification; providing an effective
24 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 509.12 of Title 70, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. No existing employee organization established pursuant to
23 the provisions of Section 509.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes
24 shall continue to represent employees as defined in Section 509.2 of

1 Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Section 1-116 of Title 70 of
2 the Oklahoma Statutes after December 31, 2018, except as provided
3 for in this section.

4 B. 1. A school district board of education shall hold a secret
5 ballot election for all employees in any bargaining unit represented
6 by an existing employee organization to determine whether the
7 organization retains support of a majority of all employees in the
8 bargaining unit.

9 2. The school district board of education shall determine
10 whether elections shall be conducted in person, by mail, by
11 telephone, by Internet-based systems or by any other means
12 determined by the board of education to be fair, confidential and
13 reliable. The board of education shall allow employees in the
14 bargaining unit to cast ballots for a period of five (5) business
15 days.

16 3. The school district board of education may establish a fee
17 schedule, consistent with the provisions of Section 509.2 of Title
18 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for employee organizations subject to
19 elections conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section for
20 the purpose of funding the election.

21 C. If a majority of all employees in the bargaining unit vote
22 in favor of retaining the existing employee organization, the
23 organization shall remain the representative of employees in the
24 bargaining unit pursuant to the provisions of Section 509.2 of Title

1 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If a majority of all employees in the
2 bargaining unit do not vote in favor of retaining the existing
3 employee organization, the school district board of education shall
4 no longer recognize the organization as the representative of
5 employees in the unit and the employees shall be unrepresented.

6 D. When an existing employee organization is no longer
7 recognized, the terms of any pre-existing contract between the
8 employee organization and the school district employees represented
9 by the organization shall continue and remain in effect for the
10 remaining contract term, except for any provisions involving in any
11 manner the employee organization including but not limited to
12 organization security, dues and fees, grievances and arbitration.

13 E. A school district board of education may recognize a new
14 employee organization in accordance with the provisions of Section
15 509.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, but the new employee
16 organization may not be substantially similar to or affiliated with
17 an employee organization that has lost recognition pursuant to the
18 provisions of subsection C of this section for twelve (12) months
19 from the date of the loss of recognition.

20 F. The school district board of education shall hold an
21 election to certify majority support of existing employee
22 organizations no earlier than August 1, 2018, and no later than
23 December 1, 2018, and every even-numbered year thereafter.
24

1 Elections shall occur no earlier than August 1 and no later than
2 December 1.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health or 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.

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