

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1402

By: Dollens

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 698.3, which relates to a teacher shortage employment incentive program; removing limitation that program applies to individuals who teach mathematics and science; increasing number of years in which individual serves at a secondary level public school in order to be eligible for program; providing that incentive payments may be made to persons who hold standard teaching certificate or alternative placement teaching certificate; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 698.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 698.3 A. ~~It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that~~ Contingent on the availability of funding, beginning with the ~~2001-2002~~ 2017-2018 school year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall establish a teacher shortage employment incentive program for students ~~enrolled in a major course of study in mathematics or science at the undergraduate level or graduate level~~ who declare an intention to serve and who subsequently serve

1 this state by teaching in a secondary level public school of this
2 state for a minimum of ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) years ~~in the subject areas~~
3 ~~of mathematics or science~~. Students meeting the criteria provided
4 in this section shall be given the opportunity to enter into
5 participation in the program.

6 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
7 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the
8 provisions of this section to persons who hold a standard teaching
9 certificate or an alternative placement teaching certificate and who
10 actually render a minimum of ~~five (5)~~ seven (7) years of service as
11 teachers in the public schools of this state ~~if not less than~~
12 ~~seventy-five percent (75%) of the teaching assignment meets the~~
13 ~~criteria specified in subsection A of this section~~. The total
14 amount of the employment incentive payments for any qualified person
15 shall not exceed an amount equal to three times the average annual
16 cost of undergraduate resident tuition and fees for full-time
17 enrollment at institutions which offer teacher education programs
18 within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, as defined by
19 the State Regents. Any amount not necessary to repay the balance of
20 a student's loan(s) shall be paid directly to any person otherwise
21 eligible for employment incentive payments pursuant to this section.

22 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
23 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible
24 persons. Persons failing to comply with the requirements of this

1 section shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments
2 provided for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State
3 Regents for Higher Education, with approval of the State Regents,
4 may contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of
5 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

6 D. If insufficient funds are available for employment incentive
7 payments to qualified persons during any fiscal year, the Chancellor
8 may make reductions in the payments made to those qualifying.

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

10 SECTION 3. 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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