

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2645

By: Baker

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to teachers; creating a one-time incentive bonus for certified teachers returning to public school employment; stating amount; providing for additional match from certain source under certain conditions; providing method for calculation and distribution of match amounts; prohibiting distribution of match amounts under certain condition; requiring certain accounting and forecasting by the State Department of Education; requiring suspension of the incentive bonus payment matching program under certain conditions; providing qualification and eligibility requirements; requiring the promulgation of rules; creating the Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund; placing the Fund under the State Department of Education; describing the nature of the Fund and the monies accruing to the Fund; authorizing expenditure for certain purpose; requiring certain procedures for expenditure; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 6-133 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. A public school district may offer a one-time incentive
2 bonus payment to certified teachers who return to teach within the
3 school district not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

4 B. 1. a. Provided sufficient funding, as determined by the
5 State Department of Education, exists in the Incentive
6 Bonus Payment Revolving Fund created pursuant to
7 Section 2 of this act, the incentive bonus payment as
8 provided for in subsection A shall be matched equally
9 up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) by the State
10 Board of Education from monies available in the
11 Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund, and

12 b. the matching incentive bonus payment as described in
13 this paragraph shall be divided and paid to qualifying
14 certified teachers in three equal distributions. The
15 distributions shall occur during the months of the
16 teacher's first, second and third anniversary of
17 returning to teach under the provisions of this act;
18 provided, no further distributions shall be made to a
19 teacher once the teacher leaves the employment of the
20 school district that paid the teacher an incentive
21 bonus payment under the provisions of subsection A of
22 this section.

23 2. a. The State Department of Education shall maintain an
24 accounting of the balance of the Incentive Bonus

1 Payment Revolving Fund encumbered by qualifying
2 teachers who have returned to teach under the
3 provisions of this act,

4 b. the Department shall maintain a forecast for when
5 funds in the Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund
6 may become insufficient to fund incentive bonus
7 payments for additional qualifying teachers, and

8 c. the Department shall suspend the incentive bonus
9 payment matching program created in this subsection
10 for teachers returning to work during any forecasted
11 period of funding insufficiency.

12 C. To qualify for the incentive bonus as provided for in
13 subsection A of this section:

14 1. The teacher shall hold a valid certificate or license issued
15 in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education and the
16 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act that has not expired or been
17 revoked;

18 2. The teacher shall not have been employed for the preceding
19 two (2) years or longer in a state public school; and

20 3. The teacher shall have resigned his or her previous state
21 school district employment in good standing.

22 D. In addition to the requirements listed in subsections A and
23 C of this section, a teacher who receives an incentive bonus shall
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1 teach in the school district for a minimum of three (3) years or as
2 otherwise directed by the employing school district.

3 E. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
4 implement the provisions of this section.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-134 of Title 70, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
9 for the State Department of Education to be designated the
10 "Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
11 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
12 consist of all monies directed to the fund by law. All monies
13 accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may
14 be budgeted and expended by the State Department of Education for
15 the purpose of making matching incentive bonus payments in
16 accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of this act.
17 Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by
18 the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with
19 the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
20 approval and payment.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
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