

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 HOUSE BILL 3881

By: Brewer

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 6-101, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
9 323, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-101),
10 which relates to teacher contracts; specifying length
11 of teacher contracts; and providing an effective
12 date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101, as
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 323, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp.
16 2019, Section 6-101), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6-101. A. Except as provided in subsection E of this
18 section, no person shall be permitted to teach in any school
19 district of the state without a written contract, except as provided
20 herein for substitute teachers and except teachers of classes in
21 adult education. Except as provided in subsection J of this
22 section, the board of education of each school district, wherein
23 school is expected to be conducted for the ensuing year, shall
24 employ and contract in writing with qualified teachers for and in

1 the name of the district. One copy of the contract shall be filed
2 with the clerk of the board of education and one copy shall be
3 retained by the teacher.

4 B. Except as otherwise provided by subsections J and K of this
5 section and any other law, no board of education shall have
6 authority to enter into any written contract with a teacher who does
7 not hold a valid certificate issued or recognized by the State Board
8 of Education authorizing said teacher to teach the grades or subject
9 matter for which the teacher is employed. Any board of education
10 paying or authorizing the payment of the salary of any teacher not
11 holding a certificate, as required herein, shall be adjudged to be
12 guilty of a fraudulent expenditure of public funds and members
13 voting for such payment shall be held jointly responsible for the
14 return of the amount of any public monies thus expended, upon suit
15 brought by the district attorney or by any interested citizen in the
16 district where such funds have been expended.

17 C. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of schools under
18 whose supervision teachers have been contracted to teach to certify
19 to the treasurer of the contracting district the names of the
20 teachers holding valid certificates and student teachers with whom
21 contracts have been made and the names of substitute teachers
22 employed in accordance with law. The treasurer shall not register
23 any warrant issued in payment of salary to any teacher whose name is
24 not included in such list and shall be liable on the official bond

1 for the treasurer for the amount of any warrant registered in
2 violation of the provisions of this section.

3 D. Whenever any person shall enter into a contract with any
4 school district in Oklahoma to teach in such school district the
5 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the board of
6 education until the teacher legally has been discharged from the
7 teaching position or released by the board of education from the
8 contract. Except as provided in Section 5-106A of this title, until
9 such teacher has been thus discharged or released, the teacher shall
10 not have authority to enter into a contract with any other board of
11 education in Oklahoma for the same time covered by the original
12 contract. If upon written complaint by the board of education in a
13 district any teacher is reported to have failed to obey the terms of
14 the contract previously made and to have entered into a contract
15 with another board of education without having been released from
16 the former contract except as provided in Section 5-106A of this
17 title, the teacher, upon being found guilty of such charge at a
18 hearing held before the State Board of Education, shall have such
19 teacher's certificate suspended for the remainder of the term for
20 which the contract was made.

21 E. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
22 written contracts with teachers for the ensuing fiscal year prior to
23 the beginning of such year; provided that contracts shall not be
24 entered into for less than a one-year period. If, prior to the

1 first Monday in June, a board of education has not entered into a
2 written contract with a regularly employed teacher or notified the
3 teacher in writing by registered or certified mail that a
4 recommendation has been made not to reemploy the teacher for the
5 ensuing fiscal year, and if, by fifteen (15) days after the first
6 Monday in June, such teacher has not notified the board of education
7 in writing by registered or certified mail that such teacher does
8 not desire to be reemployed in such school district for the ensuing
9 year, such teacher shall be considered as employed on a continuing
10 contract basis and on the same salary schedule used for other
11 teachers in the school district for the ensuing fiscal year, and
12 such employment and continuing contract shall be binding on the
13 teacher and on the school district.

14 F. Whenever a school district is engaged in contract
15 negotiations with teachers employed by that school district after
16 the school year has begun and the teachers are employed on a
17 continuing contract basis, the school district shall, beginning at
18 the first of the school year, pay the teachers any state-mandated
19 salary increases and salary schedule increases to which each teacher
20 is otherwise entitled.

21 G. No school district or any member of the board of education
22 of a district shall be liable for the payment of compensation to a
23 teacher or administrator under the provisions of any contract for
24 the ensuing year, if it becomes necessary to close the school

1 because of insufficient attendance, disorganization, annexation,
2 consolidation, or by dispensing with the school according to law,
3 provided, such cause is known or action is taken prior to July 1 of
4 such ensuing year.

5 H. No school district or any member of a board of education
6 shall be liable for the payment of compensation to any teacher or
7 administrator for the unexpired term of any contract if the school
8 building to which the teacher or administrator has been assigned is
9 destroyed by accident, storm, fire, or otherwise and it becomes
10 necessary to close the school because of inability to secure a
11 suitable building or buildings for continuation of school. Teachers
12 and administrators shall be entitled to pay for any time lost when
13 school is closed on account of epidemics or otherwise when an order
14 for such closing has been issued by a health officer authorized by
15 law to issue the order.

16 I. A teacher may contract with more than one school district
17 for the same school year as provided in Section 5-106A of this
18 title.

19 J. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
20 written contracts for the ensuing fiscal year prior to the beginning
21 of the year with persons who are not certified to teach by the State
22 Board of Education as long as the person is actively in the process
23 of securing certification. The person shall not be allowed to teach
24 in a classroom until the person has met or completed all of the

1 requirements for certification as provided for in Section 6-190 of
2 this title. If the person has not obtained valid certification by
3 the first day of the ensuing school year, the contract shall be
4 terminated.

5 K. A board of education of a school district shall have the
6 authority to enter into written contracts for employment for the
7 ensuing fiscal year with persons who are student teachers as defined
8 in Section 1-116 of this title while such persons are still student
9 teachers. A student teacher shall not be allowed to teach in a
10 classroom during the ensuing fiscal year until meeting or completing
11 all of the requirements for certification as provided for in Section
12 6-190 of this title. If the student teacher has not obtained valid
13 certification by the first day of the ensuing school year, the
14 contract shall be terminated. A board of education of a school
15 district shall have the authority to commit to payment of a stipend
16 or signing bonus to a student teacher as defined in Section 1-116 of
17 this title while that person is still a student teacher, if that
18 person has entered into a written contract for employment for the
19 ensuing fiscal year. A board of education shall make any such
20 student teacher stipend or signing bonus conditional on such person
21 fulfilling the first year of their contract for the ensuing fiscal
22 year. Any stipend or signing bonus paid under the terms of this
23 subsection shall not be considered compensation for purposes of
24 teacher retirement or the minimum salary schedule.

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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

57-2-10168 AMM 12/23/19