

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1579

By: Paxton of the Senate

3 and

4 Hilbert of the House
5

6 An Act relating to school employees; allowing a
7 school district board of education to approve certain
8 leave of absence request; requiring requesting
9 employee to provide certain proof; requiring leave of
10 absence to have certain beginning and end dates;
11 providing for type of leave to be granted;
12 prohibiting the maintenance of certain benefits
13 during certain leave; allowing certain employee
14 position to be maintained without accrual of certain
15 leave or accumulation of certain service credit;
16 prohibiting certain employee from accessing certain
17 school district space; directing an association that
18 serves as certain organization that fails to comply
19 with certain provisions to no longer be recognized;
20 providing for codification; providing an effective
21 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

A. A school district board of education may approve a request
from a school district employee for a leave of absence to hold
office as an officer, director, trustee, or agent of a national,
statewide, or school district employee association. The employee
requesting the leave shall provide the school district

1 superintendent with proof of election and proof of the term of
2 office for the national, statewide, or school district employee
3 association. Proof of election shall include but not be limited to
4 certification by the national, statewide, or school district
5 employee association of the date of the election and the results of
6 the election. Board of education approval for leave requested
7 pursuant to this section shall have definitive beginning and end
8 dates.

9 B. Leave granted pursuant to this section shall be leave
10 without pay. The school employee on leave shall not be entitled to
11 maintain any benefits granted by the school district regardless of
12 whether the benefit is paid by the employee on leave or the
13 association for which the person is serving as an officer, director,
14 trustee, or agent.

15 C. During the leave period, the school employee's position with
16 the school district shall be maintained without advancement on the
17 minimum salary schedule adopted pursuant to Section 5-141 of Title
18 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and with no accrual of sick leave,
19 personal business leave, or personal leave. The employee on leave
20 shall not accumulate service credit within the Teachers' Retirement
21 System of Oklahoma. Following the term of leave granted pursuant to
22 the provisions of this section, the employee granted leave may
23 return to his or her former position or a comparable position.

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1 D. A school district employee granted leave pursuant to the
2 provisions of this section shall be prohibited from accessing school
3 district office space.

4 E. If a national, statewide, or school district employee
5 association that serves as a school district employee organization
6 established pursuant to Section 509.2 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
7 Statutes fails to comply with the provisions of this section, the
8 school district board of education shall no longer recognize the
9 organization as a representative of employees.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2022.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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19 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
20 2022.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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