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1 including minority teachers, ~~in critical shortage areas for the~~
2 ~~public schools at one or more of the Oklahoma~~ all state public or
3 ~~private~~ higher education institutions and incentivize employment as
4 public teachers for prekindergarten through twelfth grade in the
5 state for at least five (5) years, to be known as the Oklahoma
6 Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program.
7 Prospective teachers, ~~whether~~ planning to pursue an undergraduate
8 teacher education program ~~or to become qualified to teach after~~
9 ~~earning a bachelor's degree in a critical shortage area, at an~~
10 accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation program shall be considered
11 if they ~~have~~ graduated from an Oklahoma high school ~~with a grade~~
12 ~~point average ranking them in the top fifteen percent (15%) of their~~
13 ~~graduating class, meet the higher education admission standards, and~~
14 declare a major in an approved Oklahoma teacher preparation degree
15 program leading to a standard teaching certificate. To the extent
16 that funds are available, scholarships ~~of One Thousand Five Hundred~~
17 ~~Dollars (\$1,500.00) per year, renewable for up to three (3)~~
18 additional years for qualified students meeting satisfactory
19 academic progress standards in completing a teacher preparation
20 degree program leading to a standard teaching certificate, shall be
21 awarded to cover costs of tuition, general enrollment fees, other
22 fees, books, materials, and services provided by the institution,
23 including room and board, in the following manner:

1 1. One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per academic year for up to
2 three (3) academic years for full-time students who have earned less
3 than ninety (90) credit hours; and

4 2. Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the final
5 academic year for full-time students who have earned ninety (90) or
6 more credit hours. The maximum amount of scholarship funds awarded
7 as provided in this subsection to any qualified student shall not
8 exceed Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00).

9 B. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that the
10 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education create a committee
11 composed of educators, teacher educators from the participating
12 institutions, ~~other professionals from the shortage area fields,~~ and
13 representatives of the public schools and the State Department of
14 Education to ~~recommend~~ provide recommendations to the State Regents
15 ~~the following:~~

- 16 ~~1. Further criteria for the selection of participants;~~
17 ~~2. Procedures for admission;~~
18 ~~3. Procedures and instruments for assessing the effectiveness~~
19 ~~of the program; and~~
20 ~~4. Any other criteria or procedures deemed necessary by the~~
21 ~~State Regents~~ to improve effectiveness of the program.

22 The committee shall prepare and deliver a report on the program
23 to the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year.

1 C. Each scholarship participant, prior to entry into the
2 program, shall have agreed to teach in ~~the shortage areas in the an~~
3 Oklahoma public schools prekindergarten through twelfth grade school
4 ~~of this state~~ for a minimum of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) consecutive years
5 upon graduation and licensure as a teacher. Any scholarship
6 participant failing to maintain a 2.5 grade point average, changing
7 to an ~~inappropriate~~ ineligible area of study, failing to meet
8 satisfactory academic progress standards, withdrawing or otherwise
9 leaving school, or failing to meet requirements for licensure and
10 certification to teach as established by law shall be subject to
11 disqualification from the program.

12 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
13 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the
14 provisions of this section to program participants who are employed
15 as traditionally certified teachers in Oklahoma public
16 prekindergarten through twelfth grade schools following graduation.
17 Incentive payments may be awarded following each consecutive year of
18 satisfactory service as documented by the employing school district,
19 up to five (5) years of service for scholarship recipients as
20 provided in subsection A of this section, upon graduation from an
21 accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation degree program. The maximum
22 amount of employment incentive payments for any qualified
23 participant shall be Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per year for
24

1 up to five (5) years, not to exceed a total of Twenty Thousand
2 Dollars (\$20,000.00) per participant.

3 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
4 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible program
5 participants. Participants failing to comply with the requirements
6 of this section or failing to provide current contact information
7 shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments provided
8 for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents
9 for Higher Education, with the approval of the State Regents, may
10 contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of
11 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

12 F. If sufficient funds are not available for employment
13 incentive payments to qualified participants during any fiscal year,
14 the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to qualified
15 participants.

16 G. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
17 time an award is made on behalf of the Oklahoma Future Teacher
18 Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program, set aside funds for
19 the full commitment made to an eligible student.

20 H. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may utilize
21 Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program
22 designated funds for administration of the program.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.
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SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated 03/03/2022 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.