

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 1579

By: Paxton of the Senate

and

Hilbert of the House

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

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 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

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

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

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

1 the provisions of this section, the employee granted leave may
2 return to his or her former position or a comparable position.

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

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

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

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

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 04/12/2022
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