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AS AMENDED

By: McBride, Fugate, Baker,
Phillips, Nollan, Conley,
and Waldron of the House

and

Pemberton and Stephens of
the Senate

[teachers - teacher preparation scholarships -
Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment
Incentive Program - effective date - emergency]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 698.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 698.1 A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education ~~are authorized to~~ shall establish and maintain an incentive scholarship program and teacher employment incentive program, as funding is available, to encourage the preparation of public school teachers for prekindergarten through twelfth grade, including minority teachers, ~~in critical shortage areas for the public schools at one or more of the Oklahoma~~ all state public ~~or private~~ higher education institutions and incentivize employment as

1 public teachers for prekindergarten through twelfth grade in the
2 state for at least five (5) years, to be known as the Oklahoma
3 Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 C. Each scholarship participant, prior to entry into the
22 program, shall have agreed to teach in ~~the shortage areas in the an~~
23 Oklahoma public schools prekindergarten through twelfth grade school
24 ~~of this state~~ for a minimum of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) consecutive years

1 upon graduation and licensure as a teacher. Any scholarship
2 participant failing to maintain a 2.5 grade point average, changing
3 to an ~~inappropriate~~ ineligible area of study, failing to meet
4 satisfactory academic progress standards, withdrawing or otherwise
5 leaving school, or failing to meet requirements for licensure and
6 certification to teach as established by law shall be subject to
7 disqualification from the program.

8 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
9 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the
10 provisions of this section to program participants who are employed
11 as traditionally certified teachers in Oklahoma public
12 prekindergarten through twelfth grade schools following graduation.
13 Incentive payments may be awarded following each consecutive year of
14 satisfactory service as documented by the employing school district,
15 up to five (5) years of service for scholarship recipients as
16 provided in subsection A of this section, upon graduation from an
17 accredited Oklahoma teacher preparation degree program. The maximum
18 amount of employment incentive payments for any qualified
19 participant shall be Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per year for
20 up to five (5) years, not to exceed a total of Twenty Thousand
21 Dollars (\$20,000.00) per participant.

22 E. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
23 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible program
24 participants. Participants failing to comply with the requirements

1 of this section or failing to provide current contact information
2 shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments provided
3 for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents
4 for Higher Education, with the approval of the State Regents, may
5 contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of
6 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

7 F. If sufficient funds are not available for employment
8 incentive payments to qualified participants during any fiscal year,
9 the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to qualified
10 participants.

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

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

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

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

23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
24 April 6, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED