

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 3564

By: McBride

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 698.1, which relates to teacher preparation scholarships; creating the Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program; describing program purpose; providing program eligibility criteria; including payment of specified costs and fees; listing scholarship amounts for participants; specifying maximum scholarship amount per participant; modifying membership and duties of certain committee; setting minimum years of teaching for program; listing standards for program participants; providing for incentive payments after graduation and upon certain employment; providing annual amount of incentive and including incentive cap; requiring execution of certain agreements; declaring certain participants ineligible for program; authorizing Chancellor to contract with certain entities; permitting reduction in payments if funds are insufficient; allowing funds to be set aside at certain time; authorizing use of funds for program administration; providing an effective date; and declaring an 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

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

1 fees, books, materials, and services provided by the institution,
2 including room and board, in the following manner:

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

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

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

- 18 ~~1. Further criteria for the selection of participants;~~
19 ~~2. Procedures for admission;~~
20 ~~3. Procedures and instruments for assessing the effectiveness~~
21 ~~of the program; and~~
22 ~~4. Any other criteria or procedures deemed necessary by the~~
23 ~~State Regents~~ to improve effectiveness of the program.
24

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

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

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

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

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