

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 3722

By: Waldron

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; creating the Oklahoma
8 University-Trained Teacher Retention Program;
9 directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
10 Education to administer the program; providing
11 retention stipends to certain qualifying applicants;
12 describing distribution of stipends after
13 certification and review of applications; providing
14 eligibility requirements; limiting amount of periodic
15 and cumulative stipends; allowing participants to
16 resubmit application periodically; authorizing the
17 Regents to accept certain public and private funds;
18 authorizing contracts with other entities to perform
19 certain functions; creating the Oklahoma University-
20 Trained Teacher Retention Program Revolving Fund;
21 providing for appropriations and expenditures of
22 fund; describing purpose of fund; providing for
23 codification; providing an effective date; and
24 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2501 of Title 70, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma University-Trained
23 Teacher Retention Program, which shall be administered by the
24 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

1 B. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the program,
2 depending upon and limited to the balance of the Oklahoma
3 University-Trained Teacher Retention Program Revolving Fund
4 established pursuant to subsection G of this section, shall provide
5 retention stipends to applicants who meet the requirements in
6 subsection D of this section as approved by the Oklahoma State
7 Regents for Higher Education.

8 C. Stipends shall be distributed to participants by drafts made
9 payable to participants. Prior to any disbursement, the Oklahoma
10 State Regents for Higher Education shall certify and properly review
11 applications submitted by applicants and determine eligibility in
12 accordance with subsection D of this section.

13 D. An applicant shall be eligible to participate in the
14 retention program if the applicant has:

15 1. Graduated after the effective date of this act from an
16 accredited or approved teacher education program at an institution
17 of higher education in this state; and

18 2. Been employed for no less than five (5) school years as a
19 classroom teacher at a Title I school in this state. As used in
20 this paragraph, "Title I school" means a public school that receives
21 funds pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C., Section
22 6301 et seq., and is obligated to comply with the provisions of that
23 federal law.

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1 E. The amount of the retention stipend for a single participant
2 shall not exceed Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per five-year
3 period of employment. A participant may resubmit additional
4 applications for a retention stipend and receive a stipend, provided
5 that:

6 1. No year of employment shall be claimed by a participant on
7 more than one application;

8 2. Additional applications shall cover five-year increments of
9 employment;

10 3. The cumulative retention stipends awarded pursuant to the
11 provisions of the Oklahoma University-Trained Teacher Retention
12 Program shall not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for
13 any single participant; and

14 4. No stipend shall be awarded to a participant making a claim
15 based on a year of employment for which the participant is eligible
16 to receive or has received funds through the Teacher Shortage
17 Employment Incentive Program administered by the Oklahoma State
18 Regents for Higher Education.

19 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may accept
20 donations of public or private funds to assist in funding the
21 Oklahoma University-Trained Teacher Retention Program. The Oklahoma
22 State Regents for Higher Education may contract with other public
23 entities and nonprofit organizations for the endowment, management,
24 and administration of such funds.

1 G. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
2 fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be
3 designated the "Oklahoma University-Trained Teacher Retention
4 Program Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not
5 subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies
6 received by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education from
7 public and private sources. All monies accruing to the credit of
8 said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended
9 by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the purpose
10 of providing teacher retention stipends through the Oklahoma
11 University-Trained Teacher Retention Program. Expenditures from
12 said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer
13 against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the
14 Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and
15 payment.

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

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

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