

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1483

By: Johns and Deck of the House

and

Thompson of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.6b, which relates to whistleblower protections; defining term; extending applicability of protections to support employees; updating statutory citation; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Schools

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.6b, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-101.6b. A. For purposes of this section, ~~"teacher":~~

1. "Teacher" means the term as defined in paragraph 1 of Section 1-116 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title; and

2. "Support employee" means the term as defined in paragraph 9 of Section 1-116 of this title.

B. No school district shall prohibit or take disciplinary action against teachers or support employees for:

1. Disclosing public information to correct what the teacher or support employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of the Oklahoma Constitution or law or a rule promulgated pursuant to law;

2. Reporting a violation of the Oklahoma Constitution or state or federal law; or

3. Taking any of the above actions without giving prior notice to the teacher's or support employee's supervisor or anyone else in the ~~teacher's~~ relevant chain of command.

C. For the purposes of this section, "reporting" means providing a spoken or written account to a supervising teacher, administrator, school board member, representative from the State Department of Education, law enforcement official, district attorney, and/or parent or legal guardian of a student directly impacted by the actions.

D. Each school district shall prominently post or publish a copy of this section of law in locations where it can reasonably be expected to come to the attention of all teachers and support employees.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a teacher or support employee to violate students' or parents' rights to confidentiality and protection under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 30th day of April, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____