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1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 212

By: Seifried of the Senate

and

Caldwell (Chad) of the
House

[teacher preparation - TeachForwardOK - proposals - application - approval - grants - funds - reports - response - promulgation of rules - codification - effective date -

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 6-186.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall establish and maintain a two-year pilot program to be known as TeachForwardOK to provide new, high-quality pathways to enter the teaching profession and increase the number of teachers in this state's workforce.

1 B. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act,
2 the Commission shall issue a request for proposals to select
3 technical assistance providers to evaluate teacher education
4 programs in institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma
5 State System of Higher Education that are accredited by the
6 Commission pursuant to Section 6-186 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
7 Statutes.

8 C. To participate in TeachForwardOK, a teacher education
9 program shall submit an application to the Commission in the manner
10 and on a form prescribed by the Commission. The Commission shall
11 establish criteria to approve applicants. Subject to the
12 availability of funds, the Commission shall award grants to approved
13 applicant teacher education programs. The Commission may use any
14 gifts, grants, devises, and donations from any public or private
15 source and monies appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of
16 implementing the provisions of this section. Grants shall be used
17 as incentives to participate and to contract with a technical
18 assistance provider selected by the Commission pursuant to
19 subsection B of this section. The provider shall evaluate, at a
20 minimum, the following:

- 21 1. Teacher candidate recruitment and completion;
- 22 2. Whether the teacher education program prepares teacher
- 23 candidates effectively;
- 24

1 3. Whether the teacher education program meets workforce needs
2 in this state; and

3 4. Innovative ways to recruit nontraditional teacher candidates
4 unique to the teacher education program.

5 D. 1. Evaluation reports prepared by a technical assistance
6 provider shall be electronically submitted to the approved applicant
7 teacher education program and the Commission.

8 2. Within ninety (90) days of receiving the report, the teacher
9 education program shall electronically submit a report response to
10 the Commission detailing how the teacher education program plans to
11 address the evaluation report's findings. The report response shall
12 prioritize innovative approaches to provide new, high-quality
13 pathways to enter the teaching profession and increase the number of
14 teachers in this state's workforce including, but not limited to:

15 a. developing a system for recruiting eligible teacher
16 candidates, such as:

17 (1) a pathway for high school students to become
18 paraprofessionals,

19 (2) a pathway for paraprofessionals to become
20 teachers, and

21 (3) a pathway for individuals with bachelor's degrees
22 to become teachers,

23 b. developing a curriculum that includes intensive on-
24 the-job training for teacher candidates,

- 1 c. identifying a mastery-based evaluation system to
2 determine when eligible teacher candidates have
3 mastered the skills and competencies necessary for
4 graduation from an apprenticeship program and
5 outlining benchmarks that teacher candidates must meet
6 as they progress through on-the-job training,
- 7 d. offering a schedule that enables teacher candidates to
8 work full time in a public school district while
9 participating in an apprenticeship program and
10 allowing paraprofessionals to continue in their
11 positions, or
- 12 e. providing a flexible schedule for paraprofessionals
13 participating in an apprenticeship program to support
14 their success in the program that will facilitate
15 course completion and on-the-job training.

16 E. Subject to the availability of funding, the Commission shall
17 review the report responses submitted pursuant to subsection D of
18 this section and select one approved applicant teacher education
19 program to receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to
20 enact the initiatives outlined in the program's report response.

21 F. By December 31, 2027, the Commission shall electronically
22 submit a report of TeachForwardOK's findings and recommendations to
23 the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 G. The Commission shall promulgate rules to implement the
2 provisions of this section.

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

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

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
10 04/17/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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