

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 15

By: Bice, Loveless and Pittman
of the Senate

and

Martinez of the House

An Act relating to teachers; directing the State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to develop and implement teacher recruitment programs; requiring distribution of materials; giving certain programs priority; encouraging business community and school districts to cooperate in developing certain programs; encouraging certain associations to cooperate in developing certain programs; making actions contingent upon funding; creating the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving Fund; specifying sources of fund; providing for expenditures; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Teacher recruitment

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 6-131 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, working in cooperation, shall:

1. Develop and implement programs to identify talented students and recruit those students and other persons into the teaching profession. Persons targeted for recruitment may include anyone eligible for lawful employment;

2. Develop and distribute materials that emphasize the importance of the teaching profession and inform individuals about state-funded loan forgiveness and tuition assistance programs;

3. Give priority to developing and implementing recruitment programs to address the areas of teacher shortage identified and the recommendations made in the educator supply-and-demand study as required by Section 6-211 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Department may use discretionary funds to carry out the provisions of this paragraph;

4. Encourage cooperation between the business community and school districts to develop recruitment programs designed to attract and retain capable teachers, including programs to provide summer employment opportunities for teachers; and

5. Encourage major education associations to cooperate in developing a long-range program promoting teaching as a prestigious, respected and desirable career and to assist in identifying local activities and resources that may be used to promote the teaching profession.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-132 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) of the fee authorized by Section 1 of Enrolled Senate Bill No. 14 of the 1st Session of the 56th Oklahoma Legislature, for Oklahoma License to Educate license plates shall be deposited to the Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving Fund created in subsection B of this section.

B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the State Department of Education to be designated the "Oklahoma Teacher Recruitment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the State Department of Education pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of this section and any donations, grants and gifts from any public or private source. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State Department of Education for the purpose of operating teacher recruitment programs. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

SECTION 4. 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 Senate the 22nd day of March, 2017.

Eddie Fields
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of April, 2017.

Elisabeth
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 25th
day of April, 20 17, at 1:17 o'clock P M.
By: Audrey Rodwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 1st
day of May, 20 17, at 3:04 o'clock P M.

Mary Fallin
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 1st
day of May, 20 17, at 6:11 o'clock P. M.
By: [Signature]