

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 2521

By: West (Tammy)

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma
8 Educator Loan Repayment Program; directing the State
9 Department of Education to administer the Program;
10 providing educational loan repayment assistance to
11 certain teachers; providing repayment distribution
12 based on contract up to certain amount; directing the
13 Department to establish application process;
14 requiring the Department to establish performance
15 requirements and review certain reports for
16 compliance; requiring certain review for each year of
17 participation in the Program; providing eligibility
18 requirements; authorizing the Department to accept
19 certain funds; authorizing the Department to contract
20 with other entities; creating the Educator Loan
21 Repayment Revolving Fund; providing for
22 appropriations and expenditures of fund; requiring
23 Department to present certain report; defining term;
24 providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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 2500 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment
2 Program. The State Department of Education shall administer the
3 Program.

4 B. The Program, depending upon and limited to available
5 funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to
6 Oklahoma certified teachers who agree to work in a school district
7 located in the state designated as a comprehensive support and
8 improvement (CSI) school or targeted support and improvement (TSI)
9 school.

10 C. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be
11 distributed to the sponsoring entity on behalf of the teacher at the
12 end of each contract year with disbursements not to exceed an amount
13 to be established annually by the Department based on the
14 availability of funds. A teacher participating in the Program is
15 eligible to receive awards for four (4) years.

16 D. The Department shall develop an application process for
17 teachers to apply for the Program.

18 E. The Department shall develop performance requirements for
19 teachers in the Program to ensure the participating teacher meets
20 the requirements set forth in this section and any additional
21 requirements promulgated in administrative rules. Prior to any
22 disbursement, the Department shall certify and review reports
23 submitted by the participating teacher detailing performance of
24 activities in accordance with the Program.

1 F. The Department shall review the performance of the teacher
2 during each year in the Program and determine whether an award may
3 be granted for additional years.

4 G. A teacher entering the Program shall agree to be employed
5 and teach in a school designated as a comprehensive support and
6 improvement (CSI) school or targeted support and improvement (TSI)
7 school.

8 H. A teacher shall be eligible to participate in the loan
9 repayment program if the individual is a:

- 10 1. Teacher that holds a current Oklahoma teaching certificate;
- 11 2. Recent graduate from an Oklahoma university or college; and
- 12 3. Teacher that has met other criteria established by the
13 Department.

14 I. The Department may accept donations of public or private
15 funds to assist in funding the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment
16 Program. The Department may contract with other public entities and
17 nonprofit corporations for the endowment, management and
18 administration of such funds.

19 J. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
20 fund for the State Department of Education to be designated the
21 "Educator Loan Repayment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
22 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
23 consist of all monies received by the State Department of Education
24 from public and private funds. All monies accruing to the credit of

1 said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended
2 by the State Department of Education for the purpose of providing
3 educational loan repayment assistance to Oklahoma certified teachers
4 through the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment Program. Expenditures
5 from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
6 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
7 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
8 approval and payment.

9 K. The Department shall present a report on the operation of
10 the Program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within
12 one (1) month of the beginning of each regular session of the
13 Legislature, including but not limited to the progress made in
14 accomplishing the goal of the Program.

15 L. For the purposes of this section, "teacher" shall mean a
16 classroom teacher employed in a school in the state of Oklahoma who
17 is a participant of the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment Program.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
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