

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 1, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 473

By: Paxton

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5  
6 [ school employees - leave of absence - coverage -  
7 effective date - emergency ]

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

11 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L.  
12 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 509.12), is amended to read as  
13 follows:

14 Section 509.12. A. A school district board of education may  
15 approve a request from a school district employee for a leave of  
16 absence to hold office as an officer, director, trustee, or agent of  
17 a national, statewide, or school district employee association. The  
18 employee requesting the leave shall provide the school district  
19 superintendent with proof of election and proof of the term of  
20 office for the national, statewide, or school district employee  
21 association. Proof of election shall include but not be limited to  
22 certification by the national, statewide, or school district  
23 employee association of the date of the election and the results of  
24 the election. Board of education approval for leave requested

1 pursuant to this section shall have definitive beginning and end  
2 dates.

3 B. Leave granted pursuant to this section shall be leave  
4 without pay. The school employee on leave ~~shall not be entitled to~~  
5 ~~maintain any benefits granted by the school district regardless of~~  
6 ~~whether the benefit is paid by the employee on leave or the~~  
7 ~~association for which the person is serving as an officer, director,~~  
8 ~~trustee, or agent~~ may be allowed to retain insurance coverage  
9 pursuant to Section 1308.1 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10 C. During the leave period, the school employee's position with  
11 the school district shall be maintained without advancement on the  
12 minimum salary schedule adopted pursuant to Section 5-141 of ~~Title~~  
13 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title and with no accrual of sick  
14 leave, personal business leave, or personal leave. The employee on  
15 leave shall not accumulate service credit within the Teachers'  
16 Retirement System of Oklahoma. Following the term of leave granted  
17 pursuant to the provisions of this section, the employee granted  
18 leave may return to his or her former position or a comparable  
19 position.

20 D. A school district employee granted leave pursuant to the  
21 provisions of this section shall be prohibited from accessing school  
22 district office space.

23 E. If a national, statewide, or school district employee  
24 association that serves as a school district employee organization

1 established pursuant to Section 509.2 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~  
2 ~~Statutes~~ this title fails to comply with the provisions of this  
3 section, the school district board of education shall no longer  
4 recognize the organization as a representative of employees.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
11 March 1, 2023 - DO PASS  
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