

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 1837

By: Waldron

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 698.3, which relates to the teacher shortage
9 incentive program; expanding program to include
10 students in any major course of study; removing
11 requirement to teach in the subject areas of math or
12 science; providing an effective date; and declaring
13 an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 698.3, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 698.3 A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature
18 that, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the Oklahoma State
19 Regents for Higher Education establish a teacher shortage employment
20 incentive program for students enrolled in a any major course of
21 study ~~in mathematics or science~~ at the undergraduate level or
22 graduate level who declare an intention to serve and who
23 subsequently serve this state by teaching in a secondary level
24 public school of this state for a minimum of five (5) years ~~in the~~
~~subject areas of mathematics or science.~~ Students meeting the

1 criteria provided in this section shall be given the opportunity to
2 enter into participation in the program.

3 B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
4 authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the
5 provisions of this section to persons who actually render a minimum
6 of five (5) years of service as teachers in the public schools of
7 this state if not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the
8 teaching assignment meets the criteria specified in subsection A of
9 this section. The total amount of the employment incentive payments
10 for any qualified person shall not exceed an amount equal to three
11 times the average annual cost of undergraduate resident tuition and
12 fees for full-time enrollment at institutions which offer teacher
13 education programs within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
14 Education, as defined by the State Regents. Any amount not
15 necessary to repay the balance of a student's loan(s) shall be paid
16 directly to any person otherwise eligible for employment incentive
17 payments pursuant to this section.

18 C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
19 require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible
20 persons. Persons failing to comply with the requirements of this
21 section shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments
22 provided for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State
23 Regents for Higher Education, with approval of the State Regents,
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1 may contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of
2 government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

3 D. If insufficient funds are available for employment incentive
4 payments to qualified persons during any fiscal year, the Chancellor
5 may make reductions in the payments made to those qualifying.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

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

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