

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2645

By: Baker, McBride and Nollan  
of the House

3 and

4 Stanislawski of the Senate  
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8 An Act relating to teachers; creating a one-time  
9 incentive bonus for certified teachers returning to  
10 public school employment; stating amount; providing  
11 for additional match from certain source under  
12 certain conditions; providing method for calculation  
13 and distribution of match amounts; prohibiting  
14 distribution of match amounts under certain  
15 condition; requiring certain accounting and  
16 forecasting by the State Department of Education;  
17 requiring suspension of the incentive bonus payment  
18 matching program under certain conditions; providing  
19 qualification and eligibility requirements; requiring  
20 the promulgation of rules; creating the Incentive  
21 Bonus Payment Revolving Fund; placing the fund under  
22 the State Department of Education; describing the  
23 nature of the fund and the monies accruing to the  
24 fund; authorizing expenditure for certain purpose;  
requiring certain procedures for expenditure;  
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 6-133 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. A public school district may offer a one-time incentive  
2 bonus payment to certified teachers who return to teach within the  
3 school district not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

4 B. 1. a. Provided sufficient funding, as determined by the  
5 State Department of Education, exists in the Incentive  
6 Bonus Payment Revolving Fund created pursuant to  
7 Section 2 of this act, the incentive bonus payment as  
8 provided for in subsection A of this section shall be  
9 matched equally up to Five Thousand Dollars  
10 (\$5,000.00) by the State Board of Education from  
11 monies available in the Incentive Bonus Payment  
12 Revolving Fund.

13 b. The matching incentive bonus payment as described in  
14 this paragraph shall be divided and paid to qualifying  
15 certified teachers in three equal distributions. The  
16 distributions shall occur during the months of the  
17 teacher's first, second and third anniversary of  
18 returning to teach under the provisions of this act;  
19 provided, no further distributions shall be made to a  
20 teacher once the teacher leaves the employment of the  
21 school district that paid the teacher an incentive  
22 bonus payment under the provisions of subsection A of  
23 this section.

1           2.    a.    The State Department of Education shall maintain an  
2                    accounting of the balance of the Incentive Bonus  
3                    Payment Revolving Fund encumbered by qualifying  
4                    teachers who have returned to teach under the  
5                    provisions of this act.

6            b.    The Department shall maintain a forecast for when  
7                    funds in the Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund  
8                    may become insufficient to fund incentive bonus  
9                    payments for additional qualifying teachers.

10           c.    The Department shall suspend the incentive bonus  
11                    payment matching program created in this subsection  
12                    for teachers returning to work during any forecasted  
13                    period of funding insufficiency.

14           C.    To qualify for the incentive bonus as provided for in  
15                    subsection A of this section:

16            1.    The teacher shall hold a valid certificate or license issued  
17                    in accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education and the  
18                    Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act that has not expired or been  
19                    revoked;

20            2.    The teacher shall not have been employed for the preceding  
21                    two (2) years or longer in a state public school; and

22            3.    The teacher shall have resigned his or her previous state  
23                    school district employment in good standing.

1 D. In addition to the requirements listed in subsections A and  
2 C of this section, a teacher who receives an incentive bonus shall  
3 teach in the school district for a minimum of three (3) years or as  
4 otherwise directed by the employing school district.

5 E. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to  
6 implement the provisions of this section.

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-134 of Title 70, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
11 for the State Department of Education to be designated the  
12 "Incentive Bonus Payment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a  
13 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
14 consist of all monies directed to the fund by law. All monies  
15 accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may  
16 be budgeted and expended by the State Department of Education for  
17 the purpose of making matching incentive bonus payments in  
18 accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of this act.  
19 Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by  
20 the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with  
21 the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for  
22 approval and payment.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.  
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 12th day of March, 2019.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate