

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 22, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 529

By: Pugh

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5
6 [teachers - Oklahoma Teacher Corps Program -
7 agreement - waiver - rules - fund - codification -
8 effective date -
9 emergency]

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

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 700 of Title 70, unless there is
13 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Teacher Corps Program
15 to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
16 Education to provide assistance to individuals who earn a degree
17 from an approved teacher preparation degree program at an
18 institution of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of
19 Higher Education and agree to teach in a school district in this
20 state that meets the criteria of paragraph 3 of subsection C of this
21 section for four (4) consecutive years.

22 B. To be eligible to participate in the Oklahoma Teacher Corps
23 Program during the 2023-2024 academic year and thereafter, an
24 individual shall:

- 1 1. Enroll in an institution of higher education within The
2 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;
- 3 2. Submit an application on a form prescribed by the Oklahoma
4 State Regents for Higher Education;
- 5 3. Declare a major in an approved Oklahoma teacher preparation
6 degree program leading to a standard teaching certificate; and
- 7 4. Execute an agreement pursuant to subsection C of this
8 section.

9 C. An individual who meets the eligibility criteria set forth
10 in subsection B of this section shall execute an agreement stating
11 that he or she shall:

12 1. Agree to earn a bachelor's degree from an approved Oklahoma
13 teacher preparation degree program leading to a standard teaching
14 certificate;

15 2. Agree to meet the requirements of Section 6-187 of Title 70
16 of the Oklahoma Statutes to earn a standard teaching certificate;
17 and

18 3. Agree to teach in a school district in this state that is
19 designated as a comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) school
20 or targeted support and improvement (TSI) school pursuant to the
21 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as
22 reauthorized and amended by P.L. No. 114-95, also known as the Every
23 Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for four (4) consecutive years. The
24

1 individual is not required to teach at the same school district for
2 four consecutive years.

3 D. 1. The amount of assistance shall be equivalent to the
4 amount of tuition and mandatory fees for courses in which the
5 eligible individual enrolls for completion of a bachelor's degree.
6 Assistance shall not be allowed for courses or other postsecondary
7 units taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a
8 bachelor's degree or taken more than five (5) years after the
9 individual's first semester of enrollment in an institution of
10 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
11 Education.

12 2. Assistance provided pursuant to this subsection shall be
13 allocated to the institution of higher education from the Oklahoma
14 Teacher Corps Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this
15 act.

16 E. To retain eligibility for the Oklahoma Teacher Corps
17 Program, an eligible individual shall:

18 1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
19 progress while enrolled in an institution of higher education
20 according to the institution's standards; and

21 2. After earning a bachelor's degree, submit annual proof of
22 employment with a school district described in paragraph 3 of
23 subsection C of this section to the Oklahoma State Regents for
24 Higher Education.

1 F. An individual who accepts assistance pursuant to this
2 section shall not also be eligible for an Oklahoma Higher Learning
3 Access Program award provided for by Section 2601 et seq. of Title
4 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes or an Oklahoma Future Teacher
5 Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program scholarship or
6 employment incentive payment provided for by Section 698.1 of Title
7 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

8 G. An individual who has received Oklahoma Teacher Corps
9 Program assistance pursuant to this section and who fails to comply
10 with the agreement executed pursuant to subsection C of this section
11 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

12 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
13 to the provisions of this section;

14 2. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this
15 subsection by twelve (12); and

16 3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this
17 subsection by the number of months the individual did not fulfill
18 the requirements of the agreement executed pursuant to subsection C
19 of this section. Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma
20 Teacher Corps Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this
21 act.

22 H. An individual who has received Oklahoma Teacher Corps
23 Program assistance pursuant to this section and who fails to comply
24 with the agreement executed pursuant to subsection C of this section

1 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment
2 from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

3 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
4 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

5 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 700.1 of Title 70, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
9 for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be designated
10 the "Oklahoma Teacher Corps Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
11 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
12 consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma State Regents for
13 Higher Education from state appropriations. All monies accruing to
14 the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted
15 and expended by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for
16 the purpose of implement the provisions of the Oklahoma Teacher
17 Corps Program created pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

18 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
19 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
20 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
21 approval and payment.

22 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

23 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
4 February 22, 2023 - DO PASS
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