

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 288

By: Pittman

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teachers; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 6-129.1, which relates to the Minority  
9 Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee; deleting  
10 sunset date; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-130,  
11 which relates to the Minority Teacher Recruitment  
12 Center; providing additional duties for the center;  
13 providing definitions; directing the Minority Teacher  
14 Recruitment Center to award grants; establishing  
15 eligibility requirements for grants; prohibiting use  
16 of funds to supplant certain funds; directing program  
17 budgets to include certain costs; allowing  
18 institutions of higher education to use grant funds  
19 for certain expenses; allowing community  
20 organizations to expend grant funds for certain  
21 purposes; allowing a school district or school  
22 employee union to receive grant funds for certain  
23 purposes; allowing expenditure of funds for certain  
24 salary; allowing use of grant funds for certain  
classes; allowing use of grant funds for planning  
grants; providing for codification; providing an  
effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-129.1, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 6-129.1. A. There is hereby ~~re-created until July 1,~~  
~~2010, in accordance with the Oklahoma Sunset Law,~~ created a Minority

1 Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee which shall have oversight  
2 over implementation of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and  
3 shall advise the operation of such Center. The Advisory Committee  
4 shall be composed of nineteen (19) members. The presence of ten  
5 Advisory Committee members or their designees shall constitute a  
6 quorum. Appointments shall be made by July 1 with members serving a  
7 term of two (2) years unless no longer eligible. The Advisory  
8 Committee members shall be appointed as follows:

9 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

10 a. two members from the Oklahoma House of  
11 Representatives,

12 b. two members from an institution of higher education in  
13 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. One  
14 appointee shall be from a comprehensive university.  
15 One appointee shall be from a two-year college,

16 c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a  
17 minority,

18 d. one member who is a superintendent or designee of a  
19 public school district, and

20 e. two members representing a community with a high  
21 minority population. One appointee shall be African-  
22 American. One appointee shall be Hispanic;

23 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:

24 a. two members from the Oklahoma State Senate,

- 1           b. two members from an institution of higher education in  
2           The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education with a  
3           teacher preparation program. One appointee shall be  
4           from a regional university,
- 5           c. one member who is a public school teacher who is a  
6           minority,
- 7           d. one member who is a principal of a public high school,  
8           and
- 9           e. two members representing a community with a high  
10          minority population. One appointee shall be American  
11          Indian. One appointee shall be Asian-American;

12          3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or a designee  
13 shall serve as a member of the Advisory Committee;

14          4. The Chancellor of Higher Education or a designee shall serve  
15 as a member of the Advisory Committee; and

16          5. The Executive Director of the ~~Oklahoma Commission for~~  
17 ~~Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational Quality and  
18 Accountability or a designee shall serve as a member of the Advisory  
19 Committee.

20          B. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed for  
21 attendance at the Advisory Committee meetings by the appointing  
22 agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act or Section 456  
23 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Members of the Advisory  
24 Committee shall designate from among the members a ~~chairperson~~ chair

1 and ~~vice chairperson~~ vice chair. Staff assistance shall be provided  
2 by the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center.

3 C. Persons who are members on the effective date of this act  
4 shall retain their membership until their terms are completed.

5 D. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Advisory Committee shall:

6 1. Make recommendations on the annual operating budget of the  
7 Minority Teacher Recruitment Center and verify that the funds  
8 allocated to the Center through the Oklahoma State Regents for  
9 Higher Education are utilized exclusively by the Center by function;

10 2. Advise the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of  
11 unmet needs within the state in the implementation of the Center's  
12 activities;

13 3. Annually comment publicly on the progress of the Center;

14 4. Assist the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in  
15 developing and reporting information about the Center when  
16 necessary;

17 5. Meet as often as necessary to conduct business; and

18 6. Keep official minutes of the Committee meetings which shall  
19 be made available to the public upon request.

20 E. As used in this section and Section 6-130 of this title,  
21 "minority" means a person who is a lawful resident of the State of  
22 Oklahoma and who is:

23 1. African-American, a person having origins in any of the  
24 black racial groups of Africa;

1           2. Hispanic, a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central  
2 or South American descent;

3           3. Asian-American, a person having origins in any of the  
4 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian  
5 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; or

6           4. American Indian and Alaskan Native, a person having origins  
7 in any of the original peoples of North America.

8           SECTION 2.           AMENDATORY           70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-130, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10           Section 6-130. Recognizing the future significance and  
11 challenge of educating a growing and highly diverse student  
12 population in Oklahoma common schools and acknowledging the  
13 underrepresentation of minority teachers among the state's  
14 professional education staff, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
15 Education shall ~~have authority to~~ establish the Minority Teacher  
16 Recruitment Center and staff and administer its work. Upon  
17 recommendations and advice from the Minority Teacher Recruitment  
18 Advisory Committee ~~re-created~~ created pursuant to Section ~~4~~ 6-129.1  
19 of this ~~act~~ title, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
20 are hereby directed to work with the State Board of Education, the  
21 ~~Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for  
22 Educational Quality and Accountability and other agencies, boards  
23 and education organizations in the interests of recruiting,  
24 retaining and placing minority teachers in the public schools of the

1 State of Oklahoma. Such efforts shall include, but not be limited  
2 to:

3 1. The provision and coordination of support services to  
4 teacher training programs in state institutions of higher education,  
5 including the funding of grants for campus-based recruitment,  
6 retention and placement programs that assist minority students who  
7 intend to become teachers;

8 2. The establishment and development of recruiting programs for  
9 potential minority teachers, including pre-collegiate curricular  
10 courses that emphasize school success and the opportunity to  
11 investigate teaching as a career choice, future teacher clubs and  
12 collegiate programs designed to recruit students making transitions  
13 from other careers and other areas of study;

14 3. The hosting of conferences dealing with issues that ~~effect~~  
15 affect minority teacher recruitment, retention, and placement;

16 4. The creation of activities in the public and private schools  
17 of Oklahoma which enhance the image of the teaching profession; ~~and~~

18 5. The creation and development of placement services providing  
19 assistance to both minority educators and school districts seeking  
20 to hire qualified minority teachers;

21 6. Requiring each public teacher education program in this  
22 state to prepare a plan with specific goals, strategies, and  
23 deadlines for the recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation  
24 of minority teachers;

1        7. The provision and coordination of mentoring and induction  
2 programs in school districts for minority teachers, particularly for  
3 school districts in which at least thirty-five percent (35%) of the  
4 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches and  
5 for teaching positions such as special education, bilingual  
6 education, mathematics or science that have been identified as a  
7 critical need by the local school board. These programs shall  
8 include culturally relevant teaching strategies for new teachers;

9        8. The establishment and administration of a loan forgiveness  
10 program for loans that covered any portion of tuition, books, and  
11 fees of minority teachers who complete five (5) years of service in  
12 schools that serve a substantial percentage of low-income students,  
13 with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of service. The  
14 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall establish  
15 standards for the approval of loan forgiveness requests and provide  
16 the necessary funds to forgive eligible educators' loans;

17        9. The establishment and development of financial and other  
18 additional supports to assist public school paraprofessionals in the  
19 completion of the career and development program pursuant to Section  
20 6-127A of this title; and

21        10. The establishment and administration of a "Grow Your Own"  
22 grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow Your  
23 Own Teacher preparation programs to recruit and prepare parents,  
24

1 community leaders, and paraprofessionals to become effective  
2 teachers, as provided for in Section 3 of this act.

3 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-131 of Title 70, unless there  
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. As used in this section:

7 1. "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who  
8 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and are  
9 linked by their desire to become teachers in hard-to-staff schools  
10 and by their need for the services and supports offered by the  
11 initiative;

12 2. "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization that  
13 has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and organize parent  
14 and community leaders into a constituency that will hold the school  
15 and school district accountable for achieving high academic  
16 standards. In addition to organizations with a geographic focus,  
17 "community organization" shall include general parent organizations,  
18 organizations of special education or bilingual education parents,  
19 and school employee unions;

20 3. "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill areas,  
21 such as mathematics and language arts, that are prerequisite to but  
22 not counted towards degree requirements of a teacher preparation  
23 program;

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1 4. "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle or  
2 secondary school in this state that serves a substantial percentage  
3 of low-income students and that is either hard to staff or has hard-  
4 to-staff teaching positions;

5 5. "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle or  
6 secondary school in this state in which at least thirty-five percent  
7 (35%) of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price  
8 lunches;

9 6. "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching category,  
10 such as special education, bilingual education, mathematics or  
11 science, that has been identified as a critical need by the local  
12 school board;

13 7. "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has or  
14 had a child enrolled in a school or schools that meet the definition  
15 of a hard-to-staff school under this section and who has a history  
16 of active involvement in the school or who has a history of working  
17 to improve schools, including membership in a community  
18 organization; and

19 8. "Program" means a Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program  
20 established by a consortium pursuant to this section.

21 B. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Center shall award grants  
22 to qualified consortia that meet the following requirements:

23 1. A consortium shall be composed of at least a four-year  
24 institution of higher education with a teacher preparation program,

1 at least one school district or group of schools, and one or more  
2 community organizations. The consortium membership may also include  
3 a two-year institution of higher education or a school employee  
4 union;

5 2. The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set of  
6 eligible schools that will participate in the program. The  
7 consortium shall articulate the steps that it will carry out in  
8 preparing teachers for its participating schools and in preparing  
9 teachers for one or more hard-to-staff teaching positions in those  
10 schools;

11 3. A candidate in a program must hold a high school diploma or  
12 its equivalent, must meet either the definition of "parent and  
13 community leader" or the definition of "public school  
14 paraprofessional", and does not hold a bachelor's degree;

15 4. The consortium shall employ effective procedures for  
16 teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare highly effective  
17 teachers. Professional preparation shall include ongoing direct  
18 experience in target schools and evaluation of this experience;

19 5. The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts of  
20 candidates on a schedule that enables the candidates to work full  
21 time while participating in the program and allows paraprofessionals  
22 to continue in their current positions. In any fiscal year in which  
23 an appropriation is made, the consortium shall guarantee that  
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1 support will be available to an admitted cohort for the cohort's  
2 education for that fiscal year; and

3 6. The institutions of higher education participating in the  
4 consortium shall document and agree to expand the same amount of  
5 funds in implementing the program that these institutions spend per  
6 student on similar educational programs. Grants received by the  
7 consortium shall supplement and not supplant these amounts.

8 C. Every program shall implement a program of forgivable loans  
9 to cover any portion of tuition, books, and fees of candidates under  
10 the Program in excess of the candidates' grants-in-aid. All  
11 students admitted to a cohort shall be eligible for a forgivable  
12 student loan. Loans shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes  
13 five (5) years of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff  
14 teaching positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of  
15 service.

16 D. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Center shall award grants  
17 in such a way as to provide the required support for a cohort of  
18 candidates for any fiscal year in which an appropriation is made.  
19 Program budgets must show expenditures and needed funds for the  
20 entire period that candidates are expected to be enrolled.

21 E. No funds may be used to supplant the average per-capita  
22 expenditures by the institution of higher education for candidates.

23 F. Where necessary, program budgets shall include the costs of  
24 child care and other indirect expenses, such as transportation,

1 tutoring, technology, and technology support, necessary to permit  
2 candidates to maintain their class schedules. Grant funds may be  
3 used by any member of a consortium to offset such costs, and the  
4 services may be provided by the community organization or  
5 organizations, by any other member of the consortium or by  
6 independent contractors.

7 G. The institution of higher education may expend grant funds  
8 to cover the additional costs of offering classes in community  
9 settings and for tutoring services.

10 H. The community organization or organizations may receive a  
11 portion of the grant money for the expenses of recruitment,  
12 community orientation, and counseling of potential candidates; for  
13 providing space in the community; and for working with school  
14 personnel to facilitate individual work experiences and support of  
15 candidates.

16 I. The school district or school employee union, or both, may  
17 receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of supporting the  
18 work experiences of candidates and providing mentors for graduates.

19 J. One or more members of the consortium may expend funds to  
20 cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

21 K. Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for  
22 required developmental or remedial classes for candidates beginning  
23 a program.

24

1 L. The Minority Teacher Recruitment Center may, if it chooses,  
2 award a small number of planning grants during any fiscal year to  
3 potential consortia.

4 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

5 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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