

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 HOUSE BILL 2261

By: Patzkowsky

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Teacher
8 Incentive Program; awarding certain amount of tuition
9 exemption for certain eligible persons; providing
10 eligibility requirements; limiting additional
11 exemption award; terminating tuition exemption under
12 certain circumstances; providing penalty for
13 exemption termination; providing exemption
14 application procedure; providing for application of
15 certain federal educational benefits; disqualifying
16 persons in default on certain loans; prohibiting
17 consideration of tuition exemption in decision of
18 admission to higher education program; requiring the
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and
20 institutions for higher education to coordinate and
21 share information; authorizing the Oklahoma State
22 Regents for Higher Education to promulgate rules;
23 providing for codification; providing for
24 noncodification; 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 not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Teacher
Incentive Program".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2525 of Title 70, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. An institution of higher education of The Oklahoma State
5 System of Higher Education shall exempt up to two hundred two (202)
6 persons annually selected by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
7 Education from the payment of tuition, dues, fees and other required
8 charges, including fees for correspondence courses but excluding
9 general deposit fees, student services fees and any fees or charges
10 for lodging, board or clothing, in an amount not to exceed Five
11 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per individual award.

12 B. An individual may be eligible to receive the exemption
13 provided subsection A of this section if the individual:

14 1. Currently resides in this state and is determined to be a
15 resident of this state for the purpose of resident tuition at the
16 time the person is accepted or enrolled at an institution of higher
17 education of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

18 2. Has been accepted or is enrolled at an institution of higher
19 education of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

20 3. Intends to become certified to teach through completion of
21 an accredited teacher preparation program; and

22 4. Intends to teach and become employed to serve as district
23 superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor, librarian,
24 school nurse or classroom teacher or in any other instructional,

1 supervisory or administrative capacity in this state for no less
2 than four (4) years within ten (10) years after his or her
3 certification to teach is issued.

4 C. Once an individual is awarded an exemption, the individual
5 shall be ineligible to receive an additional award.

6 D. If any individual is awarded an exemption under the
7 provisions of this section and fails to become certified to teach
8 through completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or
9 fails to become employed to serve as district superintendent,
10 principal, supervisor, a counselor, librarian, school nurse or
11 classroom teacher or in any other instructional, supervisory or
12 administrative capacity in this state for no less than four (4)
13 years within ten (10) years after his or her certification to teach
14 is issued shall result in the termination of the tuition exemption
15 provided by this section. If the tuition exemption is terminated as
16 provided in this subsection, the amount of the exemption shall be
17 required to be repaid together with eight percent (8%) interest per
18 annum.

19 E. Each institution of higher education granting an exemption
20 under this section shall require each applicant claiming the
21 exemption to submit to the institution, in the form and manner
22 prescribed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, an
23 application for the exemption and necessary evidence that the
24 applicant qualifies for the exemption.

1 F. The exemption from tuition, fees and other charges provided
2 for by this section shall not apply to a person who at the time of
3 registration is entitled to receive educational benefits under
4 federal law that may be used only for the payment of tuition and
5 fees if the value of those benefits received in a semester or other
6 term is equal to or exceeds the value of the exemption for the same
7 semester or other term. If the value of federal benefits that may
8 be used only for the payment of tuition and fees and are received in
9 a semester or term does not equal or exceed the value of the
10 exemption for the same semester or term, the person is entitled to
11 receive both those federal benefits and the exemption in the same
12 semester or term. The combined amount of the federal benefit that
13 may be used only for the payment of tuition and fees plus the amount
14 of the exemption received in a semester or term may not exceed the
15 cost of tuition and fees for that semester or term.

16 G. A person shall not receive an exemption under this section
17 if the person is in default on a loan made or guaranteed for
18 educational purposes by the State of Oklahoma.

19 H. In determining whether to admit a person to any certificate
20 program or any baccalaureate, graduate, postgraduate or professional
21 degree program, an institution of higher education may not consider
22 the fact that the person is eligible for an exemption under this
23 section.

1 I. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
2 institutions of higher education of The Oklahoma State System of
3 Higher Education shall coordinate to provide each respective entity
4 with any information required to ensure the proper administration of
5 this section and the proper execution of each entity's statutory
6 responsibilities concerning this section.

7 J. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
8 develop performance requirements for individuals awarded an
9 exemption under this section to ensure the participating individual
10 meets the requirements set forth in this section and may adopt rules
11 to provide for any additional eligibility requirements and for the
12 efficient and uniform application of this section.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
14

15 57-1-5647 AMM 01/16/19
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24