

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1425

By: Vancuren of the House

3 and

4 Stanley of the Senate

5
6 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
7 Section 6-101.6b, which relates to whistleblower
8 protections; defining term; extending applicability
9 of protections to support employees; updating
10 statutory citation; providing an effective date; and
11 declaring an emergency.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101.6b, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-101.6b A. For purposes of this section, ~~"teacher":~~

16 1. "Teacher" means the term as defined in paragraph 1 of
17 Section 1-116 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title; and

18 2. "Support employee" means the term as defined in paragraph 8
19 of Section 1-116 of this title.

20 B. No school district shall prohibit or take disciplinary
21 action against teachers or support employees for:

22 1. Disclosing public information to correct what the teacher or
23 support employee reasonably believes evidences a violation of the
24 Oklahoma Constitution or law or a rule promulgated pursuant to law;

1 2. Reporting a violation of the Oklahoma Constitution or state
2 or federal law; or

3 3. Taking any of the above actions without giving prior notice
4 to the teacher's or support employee's supervisor or anyone else in
5 the ~~teacher's~~ relevant chain of command.

6 C. For the purposes of this section, "reporting" means
7 providing a spoken or written account to a supervising teacher,
8 administrator, school board member, representative from the State
9 Department of Education, law enforcement official, district
10 attorney, and/or parent or legal guardian of a student directly
11 impacted by the actions.

12 D. Each school district shall prominently post or publish a
13 copy of this section of law in locations where it can reasonably be
14 expected to come to the attention of all teachers and support
15 employees.

16 E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow a
17 teacher or support employee to violate students' or parents' rights
18 to confidentiality and protection under the Family Educational
19 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 2023.

2
3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2023.

6
7
8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the Senate