

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB1946 _____
Of the printed Bill
Page _____ Section _____ Lines _____
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS

Adopted: _____

Amendment submitted by: Michelle McCane _____

Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 PROPOSED POLICY
4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1946

By: McCane

7 PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,
9 Section 6-101, which relates to teacher contracts;
10 prohibiting certain contract terms that are less than
11 one school year; providing exceptions; clarifying
12 contract timelines; providing an effective date; and
13 declaring an emergency.

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-101, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-101. A. Except as provided in subsection E of this
19 section, no person shall be permitted to teach in any school
20 district of the state without a written contract, except as provided
21 herein for substitute teachers and except teachers of classes in
22 adult education. Except as provided in subsection ~~J~~ K of this
23 section, the board of education of each school district, wherein
24 school is expected to be conducted for the ensuing year, shall

1 employ and contract in writing with qualified teachers for and in
2 the name of the district. One copy of the contract shall be filed
3 with the clerk of the board of education and one copy shall be
4 retained by the teacher.

5 B. Except as otherwise provided by subsections ~~¶~~ K and ~~¶~~ L of
6 this section and any other law, no board of education shall have
7 authority to enter into any written contract with a teacher who does
8 not hold an Oklahoma criminal history record check as required by
9 Section 6-190 of this title and who does not hold a valid
10 certificate issued or recognized by the State Board of Education
11 authorizing the teacher to teach the grades or subject matter for
12 which the teacher is employed. Any board of education paying or
13 authorizing the payment of the salary of any teacher not holding a
14 certificate, as required herein, shall be adjudged to be guilty of a
15 fraudulent expenditure of public funds and members voting for such
16 payment shall be held jointly responsible for the return of the
17 amount of any public monies thus expended, upon suit brought by the
18 district attorney or by any interested citizen in the district where
19 such funds have been expended.

20 C. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of schools under
21 whose supervision teachers have been contracted to teach to certify
22 to the treasurer of the contracting district the names of the
23 teachers holding valid certificates and student teachers with whom
24 contracts have been made and the names of substitute teachers

1 employed in accordance with law. The treasurer shall not register
2 any warrant issued in payment of salary to any teacher whose name is
3 not included in such list and shall be liable on the official bond
4 for the treasurer for the amount of any warrant registered in
5 violation of the provisions of this section.

6 D. Whenever any person shall enter into a contract with any
7 school district in Oklahoma to teach in such school district the
8 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the board of
9 education until the teacher legally has been discharged from the
10 teaching position or released by the board of education from the
11 contract. Except as provided in Section 5-106A of this title, until
12 such teacher has been thus discharged or released, the teacher shall
13 not have authority to enter into a contract with any other board of
14 education in Oklahoma for the same time covered by the original
15 contract. If upon written complaint by the board of education in a
16 district any teacher is reported to have failed to obey the terms of
17 the contract previously made and to have entered into a contract
18 with another board of education without having been released from
19 the former contract except as provided in Section 5-106A of this
20 title, the teacher, upon being found guilty of such charge at a
21 hearing held before the State Board of Education, shall have such
22 teacher's certificate suspended for the remainder of the term for
23 which the contract was made.

24

1 E. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
2 written contracts with teachers for the ensuing fiscal year prior to
3 the beginning of such year. If, prior to the first Monday in June,
4 a board of education has not entered into a written contract with a
5 regularly employed teacher or notified the teacher in writing by
6 registered or certified mail that a recommendation has been made not
7 to reemploy the teacher for the ensuing fiscal year, and if, by
8 fifteen (15) days after the first Monday in June, such teacher has
9 not notified the board of education in writing by registered or
10 certified mail that such teacher does not desire to be reemployed in
11 such school district for the ensuing year, such teacher shall be
12 considered as employed on a continuing contract basis and on the
13 same salary schedule used for other teachers in the school district
14 for the ensuing fiscal year, and such employment and continuing
15 contract shall be binding on the teacher and on the school district.

16 F. Unless otherwise allowed by law, a board of education shall
17 not enter into or cause to be renewed a written permanent contract
18 with a certified teacher for a period of time that is less than one
19 (1) school year, unless the certified teacher is hired after the
20 school year has begun. Written contracts entered or renewed
21 pursuant to this subsection shall include the entirety of a given
22 school year. If a certified teacher is hired after a school year
23 has begun, the contract shall extend to the end of the current
24 school year.

1 G. Whenever a school district is engaged in contract
2 negotiations with teachers employed by that school district after
3 the school year has begun and the teachers are employed on a
4 continuing contract basis, the school district shall, beginning at
5 the first of the school year, pay the teachers any state-mandated
6 salary increases and salary schedule increases to which each teacher
7 is otherwise entitled.

8 ~~G.~~ H. No school district or any member of the board of
9 education of a district shall be liable for the payment of
10 compensation to a teacher or administrator under the provisions of
11 any contract for the ensuing year, if it becomes necessary to close
12 the school because of insufficient attendance, disorganization,
13 annexation, consolidation, or by dispensing with the school
14 according to law, provided, such cause is known or action is taken
15 prior to July 1 of such ensuing year.

16 ~~H.~~ I. No school district or any member of a board of education
17 shall be liable for the payment of compensation to any teacher or
18 administrator for the unexpired term of any contract if the school
19 building to which the teacher or administrator has been assigned is
20 destroyed by accident, storm, fire, or otherwise and it becomes
21 necessary to close the school because of inability to secure a
22 suitable building or buildings for continuation of school. Teachers
23 and administrators shall be entitled to pay for any time lost when
24 school is closed on account of epidemics or otherwise when an order

1 for such closing has been issued by a health officer authorized by
2 law to issue the order.

3 ~~I.~~ J. A teacher may contract with more than one school district
4 for the same school year as provided in Section 5-106A of this
5 title.

6 ~~J.~~ K. A board of education shall have authority to enter into
7 written contracts for the ensuing fiscal year prior to the beginning
8 of the year with persons who are not certified to teach by the State
9 Board of Education as long as the person is actively in the process
10 of securing certification. The person shall not be allowed to teach
11 in a classroom until the person has met or completed all of the
12 requirements for certification as provided for in Section 6-190 of
13 this title. If the person has not obtained valid certification by
14 the first day of the ensuing school year, the contract shall be
15 terminated.

16 ~~K.~~ L. A board of education of a school district shall have the
17 authority to enter into written contracts for employment for the
18 ensuing fiscal year with persons who are student teachers as defined
19 in Section 1-116 of this title while such persons are still student
20 teachers. A student teacher shall not be allowed to teach in a
21 classroom during the ensuing fiscal year until meeting or completing
22 all of the requirements for certification as provided for in Section
23 6-190 of this title. If the student teacher has not obtained valid
24 certification by the first day of the ensuing school year, the

1 contract shall be terminated. A board of education of a school
2 district shall have the authority to commit to payment of a stipend
3 or signing bonus to a student teacher as defined in Section 1-116 of
4 this title while that person is still a student teacher, if that
5 person has entered into a written contract for employment for the
6 ensuing fiscal year. A board of education shall make any such
7 student teacher stipend or signing bonus conditional on such person
8 fulfilling the first year of his or her contract for the ensuing
9 fiscal year. Any stipend or signing bonus paid under the terms of
10 this subsection shall not be considered compensation for purposes of
11 teacher retirement or the minimum salary schedule.

12 ~~H.~~ M. A teacher whose certificate was suspended by the State
13 Board of Education pursuant to Section 3-104 of this title and
14 Sections 314 and 314.1 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be
15 placed on suspension pursuant to the provisions of Section 6-101.29
16 of this title while proceedings for revocation or other action are
17 pending before the State Board of Education. The provisions of this
18 subsection shall not preclude the initiation of due process
19 procedures in accordance with Section 6-101.20 et. seq of this
20 title.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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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.

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