

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 365

By: Burns

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1-116, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 281, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1-116), which relates to positions in a school system; modifying certain definition; updating statutory language; defining term; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3-104), which relates to powers and duties of the State Board of Education; requiring electronic submission of certain report; authorizing the Board to promulgate rules regarding the issuance and revocation of certificates for head coaches; updating statutory references and language; 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. 2021, Section 1-116, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 281, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 1-116), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-116. As used in this title:

1. "Teacher" means any person who is employed to serve as district superintendent, principal, supervisor, counselor, librarian, school nurse, athletic trainer, head coach, or classroom teacher or in any other instructional, supervisory, or

1 administrative capacity. The person shall not be deemed qualified  
2 unless the person holds a valid certificate issued by and in  
3 accordance with the rules of the State Board of Education or the  
4 rules of the State Board of Career and Technology Education, to  
5 perform the particular services for which the person is employed;

6 2. "Superintendent" or "superintendent of schools" means the  
7 executive officer of the board of education and the administrative  
8 head of the school system of a district maintaining an accredited  
9 school, provided the person holds an administrator's certificate  
10 recognized by the State Board of Education;

11 3. "Principal" means any person other than a district  
12 superintendent of schools having supervisory or administrative  
13 authority over any school or school building having two or more  
14 teachers. A teaching principal shall be a principal who devotes at  
15 least one-half (1/2) the time school is in session to classroom  
16 teaching. Teaching principals shall be required to hold  
17 administrative certificates;

18 4. "Teachers" means, for purposes of complying with the State  
19 Aid Law and other statutes, but not any other provision of law,  
20 which apportion money on the basis of teaching units or the number  
21 of teachers employed or qualified, all persons holding proper  
22 certificates and connected in any capacity with the instruction of  
23 pupils;

1 5. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in a  
2 local school to serve as a classroom teacher under the guidance and  
3 assistance of a mentor teacher or teachers;

4 6. "Student teacher" means any student who is enrolled in an  
5 institution of higher learning approved by the State Board of  
6 Education for teacher training and who is jointly assigned by the  
7 institution of higher learning and a board of education of a school  
8 district to perform practice teaching under the direction of a  
9 regularly employed and certified teacher. A student teacher, while  
10 serving an internship under the supervision of a certified teacher,  
11 shall be accorded the same protection of the laws as that accorded  
12 the certified teacher and shall be eligible to receive compensation  
13 beginning on the first day of the internship for up to one full  
14 school year; provided, however, that such compensation shall not be  
15 considered compensation for purposes of teacher retirement or the  
16 minimum salary schedule;

17 7. "School nurse" means a person employed full time by a board  
18 of education who is a registered nurse licensed by the Oklahoma  
19 ~~State Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education~~ and is  
20 certified the same as a teacher by the State Board of Education.  
21 Provided, that any person who is employed as a full-time school  
22 nurse in any school district in Oklahoma who is not registered on  
23 July 2, 1971, may continue to serve in the same capacity; however,  
24 such person shall, under rules adopted by the State Board of  
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1 Education, attend classes in nursing and prepare to become  
2 registered. A school nurse employed by a board of education shall  
3 be accorded the same protection of laws and all other benefits as a  
4 certified teacher;

5 8. "Athletic trainer" means a person employed full time by a  
6 board of education who is a ~~Certified Athletic Trainer~~ certified  
7 athletic trainer with current certification from the Board of  
8 Certification of the National Athletic Trainers' Association and is  
9 also currently licensed to practice in the state in accordance with  
10 the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. An athletic  
11 trainer employed by a board of education shall be accorded the same  
12 protection of laws and all other benefits as a certified teacher;  
13 ~~and~~

14 9. "Support employee" means an employee who provides those  
15 services which are not performed by certified teachers, principals,  
16 superintendents, or administrators and which are necessary for the  
17 efficient and satisfactory functioning of a school district; and

18 10. "Head coach" means the lead person employed by a school  
19 district who is assigned to supervise and instruct students  
20 participating in a specific school-sponsored athletic activity.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 3-104, as  
22 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 445, O.S.L. 2024 (70 O.S. Supp.  
23 2024, Section 3-104), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-104. A. The supervision of the public school system  
2 of Oklahoma shall be vested in the State Board of Education and,  
3 subject to limitations otherwise provided by law, the State Board of  
4 Education shall:

5 1. Adopt policies and make rules for the operation of the  
6 public school system of the state;

7 2. Appoint, prescribe the duties, and fix the compensation of a  
8 secretary, an attorney, and all other personnel necessary for the  
9 proper performance of the functions of the State Board of Education.  
10 The secretary shall not be a member of the Board;

11 3. Submit to the Governor a departmental budget based upon  
12 major functions of the State Department of Education as prepared by  
13 the Superintendent of Public Instruction and supported by detailed  
14 data on needs and proposed operations as partially determined by the  
15 budgetary needs of local school districts filed with the State Board  
16 of Education for the ensuing fiscal year. Appropriations therefor  
17 shall be made in lump-sum form for each major item in the budget as  
18 follows:

- 19 a. State Aid to schools,  
20 b. the supervision of all other functions of general and  
21 special education including general control, free  
22 textbooks, school lunch, Indian education, and all  
23 other functions of the Board and an amount sufficient  
24 to adequately staff and administer these services, and  
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1 c. the Board shall determine the details by which the  
2 budget and the appropriations are administered.  
3 Annually, the Board shall make preparations to  
4 consolidate all of the functions of the Department in  
5 such a way that the budget can be based on two items,  
6 administration and aid to schools. A maximum amount  
7 for administration shall be designated as a part of  
8 the total appropriation;

9 4. On the first day of December preceding each regular session  
10 of the Legislature, prepare and deliver electronically to the  
11 Governor and the Legislature a report for the year ending June 30  
12 immediately preceding the regular session of the Legislature. The  
13 report shall contain:

- 14 a. detailed statistics and other information concerning  
15 enrollment, attendance, expenditures including State  
16 Aid, and other pertinent data for all public schools  
17 in this state,  
18 b. reports from each and every division within the State  
19 Department of Education as submitted by the  
20 Superintendent of Public Instruction and any other  
21 division, department, institution, or other agency  
22 under the supervision of the Board,  
23 c. recommendations for the improvement of the public  
24 school system of the state,  
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- 1 d. a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the  
2 State Board of Education for the past year, and  
3 e. a statement of plans and recommendations for the  
4 management and improvement of public schools and such  
5 other information relating to the educational  
6 interests of the state as may be deemed necessary and  
7 desirable;

8 5. Provide for the formulation and adoption of curricula,  
9 courses of study, and other instructional aids necessary for the  
10 adequate instruction of pupils in the public schools;

11 6. Have authority in matters pertaining to the licensure and  
12 certification of persons for instructional, supervisory, and  
13 administrative positions and services in the public schools of the  
14 state subject to the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title, and  
15 shall ~~formulate~~ promulgate rules governing the issuance and  
16 revocation of certificates for superintendents of schools,  
17 principals, supervisors, librarians, clerical employees, school  
18 nurses, school bus drivers, visiting teachers, classroom teachers,  
19 head coaches, and for other personnel performing instructional,  
20 administrative, and supervisory services, but not including members  
21 of boards of education and other employees who do not work directly  
22 with pupils, and may charge and collect reasonable fees for the  
23 issuance of such certificates:  
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1 a. the State Department of Education shall not issue a  
2 certificate to and shall revoke the certificate of any  
3 person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict  
4 or plea of guilty or upon a plea of nolo contendere,  
5 or received a suspended sentence or any probationary  
6 term for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime  
7 provided for in Section 843.5 of Title 21 of the  
8 Oklahoma Statutes if the offense involved sexual abuse  
9 or sexual exploitation as those terms are defined in  
10 Section 1-1-105 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
11 Section 741, 843.1, if the offense included sexual  
12 abuse or sexual exploitation, 865 et seq., 885, 888,  
13 891, 1021, 1021.2, 1021.3, 1040.13a, 1087, 1088,  
14 1111.1, 1114, or 1123 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes or who enters this state and who has been  
16 convicted, received a suspended sentence, or received  
17 a deferred judgment for a crime or attempted crime  
18 which, if committed or attempted in this state, would  
19 be a crime or an attempt to commit a crime provided  
20 for in any of the laws, and

21 b. all funds collected by the State Department of  
22 Education for the issuance of certificates to  
23 instructional, supervisory, and administrative  
24 personnel in the public schools of the state shall be  
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1 deposited in the "Teachers' Certification Fund" in the  
2 State Treasury and may be expended by the State Board  
3 of Education to finance the activities of the State  
4 Department of Education necessary to administer the  
5 program, for consultative services, publication costs,  
6 actual and necessary travel expenses as provided in  
7 the State Travel Reimbursement Act incurred by persons  
8 performing research work, and other expenses found  
9 necessary by the State Board of Education for the  
10 improvement of the preparation and certification of  
11 teachers in this state. Provided, any unobligated  
12 balance in the Teachers' Certification Fund in excess  
13 of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) on June 30 of any  
14 fiscal year shall be transferred to the General  
15 Revenue Fund of this state. Until July 1, 1997, the  
16 State Board of Education shall have authority for  
17 approval of teacher education programs. The State  
18 Board of Education shall also have authority for the  
19 administration of teacher residency and professional  
20 development, subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma  
21 Teacher Preparation Act;

22 7. Promulgate rules governing the classification, inspection,  
23 supervision, and accrediting of all public nursery, kindergarten,  
24 elementary and secondary schools, and on-site educational services  
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1 provided by public school districts or state-accredited private  
2 schools in partial hospitalization programs, day treatment programs,  
3 and day hospital programs as defined in ~~this section~~, Section 3-  
4 104.7 of this title, and Section ~~603.4~~ 175.20 of Title 10 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes for persons between the ages of three (3) and  
6 twenty-one (21) years of age in the state. However, no school shall  
7 be denied accreditation solely on the basis of average daily  
8 attendance.

9 Any school district which maintains an elementary school and  
10 faces the necessity of relocating its school facilities because of  
11 construction of a lake, either by state or federal authority, which  
12 will inundate the school facilities, shall be entitled to receive  
13 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a  
14 period of five (5) years after June 12, 1975, and any school  
15 district, otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to receive  
16 probationary accreditation from the State Board of Education for a  
17 period of two (2) consecutive years to attain the minimum average  
18 daily attendance. The Head Start and public nurseries or  
19 kindergartens operated from community action agency funds shall not  
20 be subjected to the accrediting rules of the State Board of  
21 Education. Neither will the State Board of Education make rules  
22 affecting the operation of the public nurseries and kindergartens  
23 operated from federal funds secured through community action  
24 agencies even though they may be operating in the public schools of

1 the state. However, any of the Head Start or public nurseries or  
2 kindergartens operated under federal regulations may make  
3 application for accrediting from the State Board of Education but  
4 will be accredited only if application for the approval of the  
5 programs is made. The status of no school district shall be changed  
6 which will reduce it to a lower classification until due notice has  
7 been given to the proper authorities thereof and an opportunity  
8 given to correct the conditions which otherwise would be the cause  
9 of such reduction.

10 Private and parochial schools may be accredited and classified  
11 in like manner as public schools or, if an accrediting association  
12 is approved by the State Board of Education, by procedures  
13 established by the State Board of Education to accept accreditation  
14 by such accrediting association, if application is made to the State  
15 Board of Education for such accrediting;

16 8. Be the legal agent of this state to accept, in its  
17 discretion, the provisions of any Act of Congress appropriating or  
18 apportioning funds which are now, or may hereafter be, provided for  
19 use in connection with any phase of the system of public education  
20 in Oklahoma. It shall prescribe such rules as it finds necessary to  
21 provide for the proper distribution of such funds in accordance with  
22 the state and federal laws;

23 9. Be and is specifically hereby designated as the agency of  
24 this state to cooperate and deal with any officer, board, or  
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1 authority of the United States Government under any law of the  
2 United States which may require or recommend cooperation with any  
3 state board having charge of the administration of public schools  
4 unless otherwise provided by law;

5 10. Be and is hereby designated as the ~~"State Educational~~  
6 ~~Agency"~~ state educational agency referred to in Public Law 396 of  
7 the 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, which ~~law states~~  
8 ~~that the act~~ may be cited known as the ~~"National Richard B. Russell~~  
9 ~~National School Lunch Act"~~ Act, and the State Board of Education is  
10 hereby authorized and directed to accept the terms and provisions of  
11 the act and to enter into such agreements, not in conflict with the  
12 Oklahoma Constitution ~~of Oklahoma~~ or the United States Constitution  
13 and Statutes ~~of the United States~~, as may be necessary or  
14 appropriate to secure for this state the benefits of the school  
15 lunch program established and referred to in the act;

16 11. Have authority to secure and administer the benefits of the  
17 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, Public Law 396 of the  
18 79th Congress of the United States, as amended, in this state and is  
19 hereby authorized to employ or appoint and fix the compensation of  
20 such additional officers or employees and to incur such expenses as  
21 may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above purpose, and  
22 administer the distribution of any state funds appropriated by the  
23 Legislature required as federal matching to reimburse on children's  
24 meals;

1           12. Accept and provide for the administration of any land,  
2 money, buildings, gifts, ~~donation~~ donations, or other things of  
3 value which may be offered or bequeathed to the schools under the  
4 supervision or control of the Board;

5           13. Have authority to require persons having administrative  
6 control of all school districts in Oklahoma to make such regular and  
7 special reports regarding the activities of the schools in the  
8 districts as the Board may deem needful for the proper exercise of  
9 its duties and functions. Such authority shall include the right of  
10 the State Board of Education to withhold all state funds under its  
11 control, to withhold official recognition including accrediting,  
12 until such required reports have been filed and accepted in the  
13 office of the Board and to revoke the certificates of persons  
14 failing or refusing to make such reports;

15           14. Have general supervision of the school lunch program. The  
16 State Board of Education may sponsor workshops for personnel and  
17 participants in the school lunch program and may develop, print, and  
18 distribute free of charge or sell any materials, books, and  
19 bulletins to be used in the school lunch programs. There is hereby  
20 created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Board, to be  
21 designated the "School Lunch Workshop Revolving Fund". The fund  
22 shall consist of all fees derived from or on behalf of any  
23 participant in any such workshop sponsored by the State Board of  
24 Education, or from the sale of any materials, books, and bulletins,

1 and funds shall be disbursed for expenses of such workshops and for  
2 developing, printing, and distributing of the materials, books, and  
3 bulletins relating to the school lunch program. The fund shall be  
4 administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title 62 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes;

6 15. Prescribe all forms for school district and county officers  
7 to report to the State Board of Education where required. The State  
8 Board of Education shall also prescribe a list of appropriation  
9 accounts by which the funds of school districts shall be budgeted,  
10 accounted for, and expended; and it shall be the duty of the State  
11 Auditor and Inspector in prescribing all budgeting, accounting, and  
12 reporting forms for school funds to conform to such lists;

13 16. Provide for the establishment of a uniform system of pupil  
14 and personnel accounting, records, and reports;

15 17. Have authority to provide for the health and safety of  
16 school children and school personnel while under the jurisdiction of  
17 school authorities;

18 18. Provide for the supervision of the transportation of  
19 pupils;

20 19. Have authority, upon request of the local school board, to  
21 act in behalf of the public schools of the state in the purchase of  
22 transportation equipment;

23 20. Have authority and is hereby required to perform all duties  
24 necessary to the administration of the public school system in  
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1 Oklahoma as specified in the Oklahoma School Code; and, in addition  
2 thereto, those duties not specifically mentioned herein if not  
3 delegated by law to any other agency or official;

4 21. Administer the State Public Common School Building  
5 Equalization Fund established by Section 32 of Article X of the  
6 Oklahoma Constitution. Any monies as may be appropriated or  
7 designated by the Legislature, other than ad valorem taxes, any  
8 other funds identified by the State Department of Education, which  
9 may include, but not be limited to, grants-in-aid from the federal  
10 government for building purposes, the proceeds of all property that  
11 shall fall to the state by escheat, penalties for unlawful holding  
12 of real estate by corporations, and capital gains on assets of the  
13 permanent school funds, shall be deposited in the State Public  
14 Common School Building Equalization Fund. The fund shall be used to  
15 aid school districts and charter schools in acquiring buildings,  
16 subject to the limitations fixed by Section 32 of Article X of the  
17 Oklahoma Constitution. It is hereby declared that redbud school  
18 grants disbursed from the State Public Common School Building  
19 Equalization Fund shall be used for the same purposes as a building  
20 fund, as provided for in Section 1-118 of this title. It is hereby  
21 declared that the term "school districts" as used in Section 32 of  
22 Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution shall mean school districts  
23 and eligible charter schools as defined in subsection B of this  
24 section. The State Board of Education shall disburse redbud school

1 grants annually from the State Public Common School Building  
2 Equalization Fund to public schools and eligible charter schools  
3 pursuant to subsection B of this section. The Board shall  
4 promulgate rules for the implementation of disbursing redbud school  
5 grants pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education shall  
6 prescribe rules for making grants of aid from, and for otherwise  
7 administering, the fund pursuant to the provisions of this  
8 paragraph, and may employ and fix the duties and compensation of  
9 technicians, aides, clerks, stenographers, attorneys, and other  
10 personnel deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
11 paragraph. The cost of administering the fund shall be paid from  
12 monies appropriated to the State Board of Education for the  
13 operation of the State Department of Education. From monies  
14 apportioned to the fund, the State Department of Education may  
15 reserve not more than one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) for  
16 purposes of administering the fund;

17 22. Recognize that the Director of the Department of  
18 Corrections shall be the administrative authority for the schools  
19 which are maintained in the state reformatories and shall appoint  
20 the principals and teachers in such schools. Provided, that rules  
21 of the State Board of Education for the classification, inspection,  
22 and accreditation of public schools shall be applicable to such  
23 schools; and such schools shall comply with standards set by the  
24 State Board of Education; and



1           23. Have authority to administer a revolving fund which is  
2 hereby created in the State Treasury, to be designated the  
3 "Statistical Services Revolving Fund". The fund shall consist of  
4 all monies received from the various school districts of the state,  
5 the United States Government, and other sources for the purpose of  
6 furnishing or financing statistical services and for any other  
7 purpose as designated by the Legislature. The State Board of  
8 Education is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with school  
9 districts, municipalities, the United States Government,  
10 foundations, and other agencies or individuals for services,  
11 programs, or research projects. The Statistical Services Revolving  
12 Fund shall be administered in accordance with Section 155 of Title  
13 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

14           B. 1. The redbud school grants shall be determined by the  
15 State Department of Education as follows:

- 16           a. divide the county four-mill levy revenue by four to  
17           determine the nonchargeable county four-mill revenue  
18           for each school district,
- 19           b. determine the amount of new revenue generated by the  
20           five-mill building fund levy as authorized by Section  
21           10 of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution for each  
22           school district as reported in the Oklahoma Cost  
23           Accounting System for the preceding fiscal year,

- 1 c. add the amounts calculated in subparagraphs a and b of  
2 this paragraph to determine the nonchargeable millage  
3 for each school district,
- 4 d. add the nonchargeable millage in each district  
5 statewide as calculated in subparagraph c of this  
6 paragraph and divide the total by the average daily  
7 membership in public schools statewide based on the  
8 preceding school year's average daily membership,  
9 according to the provisions of Section 18-107 of this  
10 title. This amount is the statewide nonchargeable  
11 millage per student, known as the baseline local  
12 funding per student,
- 13 e. all eligible charter schools shall be included in  
14 these calculations as unique school districts,  
15 separate from the school district that may sponsor the  
16 eligible charter school, and the total number of  
17 districts shall be used to determine the statewide  
18 average baseline local funding per student,
- 19 f. for each school district or eligible charter school  
20 which is below the baseline local funding per student,  
21 the Department shall subtract the baseline local  
22 funding per student from the average nonchargeable  
23 millage per student of the school district or eligible  
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1 charter school to determine the nonchargeable millage  
2 per student shortfall for each district, and

3 g. the nonchargeable millage per student shortfall for a  
4 school district or eligible charter school shall be  
5 multiplied by the average daily membership of the  
6 preceding school year of the eligible school district  
7 or eligible charter school. This amount shall be the  
8 redbud school grant amount for the school district or  
9 eligible charter school.

10 2. For fiscal year 2022, monies for the redbud school grants  
11 shall be expended from the funds apportioned pursuant to Section 426  
12 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. For fiscal year 2023 and each  
13 subsequent fiscal year, monies for the redbud school grants shall be  
14 appropriated pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes, not to exceed three-fourths (3/4) of the tax collected in  
16 the preceding fiscal year pursuant to Section 426 of Title 63 of the  
17 Oklahoma Statutes as determined by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. For  
18 fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, if such  
19 appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the redbud school  
20 grants, then an additional apportionment of funds shall be made from  
21 sales tax collections as provided by subsection D of Section 1353 of  
22 Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If both funds are insufficient,  
23 the Department shall promulgate rules to permit a decrease to the  
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1 baseline local funding per student to the highest amount allowed  
2 with the funding available.

3 3. As used in this section, "eligible charter school" shall  
4 mean a charter school which is sponsored pursuant to the provisions  
5 of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Provided, however, eligible  
6 charter school shall not include a statewide virtual charter school  
7 sponsored by the Statewide Charter School Board but shall only  
8 include those which provide in-person or blended instruction, as  
9 provided by Section 1-111 of this title, to not less than two-thirds  
10 (2/3) of students as the primary means of instructional service  
11 delivery.

12 4. The Department shall develop a program to acknowledge the  
13 redbud school grant recipients and shall include elected members of  
14 the House of Representatives and Senate who represent the school  
15 districts and eligible charter schools.

16 5. The Department shall create a dedicated page on its website  
17 listing annual redbud school grant recipients, amount awarded to  
18 each recipient, and other pertinent information about the Redbud  
19 School Funding Act.

20 6. The Department shall provide the ~~chair~~ Chair of the House  
21 Appropriations and Budget Committee and the ~~chair~~ Chair of the  
22 Senate Appropriations Committee no later than February 1 of each  
23 year with an estimate of the upcoming year's redbud school grant  
24 allocation as prescribed by this section.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

2 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
3 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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