

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE BILL 2951

By: Rogers

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; directing the State
8 Department of Education and the Oklahoma State
9 Regents for Higher Education to develop and implement
10 teacher recruitment programs; requiring distribution
11 of materials; giving certain programs priority;
12 encouraging business community and school districts
13 cooperate in developing certain programs; encouraging
14 certain associations to cooperate in developing
15 certain programs; making actions contingent upon
16 funding; providing for codification; and providing an
17 effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-131 of Title 70, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 Subject to the availability of funds, the State Department of
23 Education and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
24 working in cooperation, shall:

1. Develop and implement programs to identify talented students
and recruit those students and other persons into the teaching
profession. Persons targeted for recruitment may include, but are

1 not limited to, high school and undergraduate students, mid-career
2 and retired professionals, honorably discharged and retired military
3 personnel and members of underrepresented gender and ethnic groups;

4 2. Develop and distribute materials that emphasize the
5 importance of the teaching profession and inform individuals about
6 state-funded loan forgiveness and tuition assistance programs;

7 3. Give priority to developing and implementing recruitment
8 programs to address the areas of teacher shortage identified in and
9 the recommendations made in the educator supply-and-demand study as
10 required by Section 6-211 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The
11 Department may use discretionary funds to carry out the provisions
12 of this paragraph;

13 4. Encourage cooperation between the business community and
14 school districts to develop recruitment programs designed to attract
15 and retain capable teachers, including programs to provide summer
16 employment opportunities for teachers; and

17 5. Encourage major education associations to cooperate in
18 developing a long-range program promoting teaching as a prestigious,
19 respected and desirable career and to assist in identifying local
20 activities and resources that may be used to promote the teaching
21 profession.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.

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24 55-2-8418 KB 01/20/16