

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3641

By: Hasenbeck

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; creating the Teacher Public Advocate Office within the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability; requiring Office to serve as a resource and advocate for public school teachers; directing Governor to appoint Teacher Public Advocate with certain advice and consent; prescribing qualifications for Teacher Public Advocate; listing powers and duties of Teacher Public Advocate; providing for codification; 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 to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-117.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby established the Teacher Public Advocate Office within the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability.

B. The Teacher Public Advocate Office shall serve as a resource and advocate for public school teachers, addressing their concerns, providing support, and promoting the well-being of the teaching profession.

1 C. The Teacher Public Advocate shall be appointed by the  
2 Governor, with the advice and consent of the Oklahoma State Senate.

3 D. The Teacher Public Advocate shall be a resident of the state  
4 with a background in public education and a demonstrated commitment  
5 to the interests and rights of public school teachers.

6 E. The Teacher Public Advocate shall:

7 1. Serve as a liaison between public school teachers and the  
8 State Department of Education and the Secretary of Education,  
9 addressing issues and concerns raised by teachers;

10 2. Provide guidance and support to public school teachers  
11 facing challenges related to professional matters, working  
12 conditions, or other issues affecting the teaching profession;

13 3. Monitor and review education policies to ensure they are  
14 fair, equitable, and supportive of public school teachers' needs and  
15 concerns;

16 4. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including public  
17 school teachers, administrators, and educational organizations, to  
18 foster a positive and collaborative educational environment;

19 5. Conduct outreach programs to educate public school teachers  
20 about their rights, resources, and avenues for addressing grievances  
21 and other issues; and

22 6. Report annually to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma  
23 House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma  
24 State Senate, the Secretary of Education, and the Oklahoma

1 Department of Education on the status of the teaching profession in  
2 the state, highlighting challenges and recommending improvements.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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