

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 473

By: Paxton

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school employees; amending Section
8 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022,
9 Section 509.12), which relates to certain school
10 employee leave of absence; allowing certain school
11 employee to retain certain coverage pursuant to
12 certain provisions; updating statutory references;
13 providing an effective date; and declaring an
14 emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 135, O.S.L.
17 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 509.12), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 509.12. A. A school district board of education may
20 approve a request from a school district employee for a leave of
21 absence to hold office as an officer, director, trustee, or agent of
22 a national, statewide, or school district employee association. The
23 employee requesting the leave shall provide the school district
24 superintendent with proof of election and proof of the term of
office for the national, statewide, or school district employee
association. Proof of election shall include but not be limited to

1 certification by the national, statewide, or school district
2 employee association of the date of the election and the results of
3 the election. Board of education approval for leave requested
4 pursuant to this section shall have definitive beginning and end
5 dates.

6 B. Leave granted pursuant to this section shall be leave
7 without pay. The school employee on leave ~~shall not be entitled to~~
8 ~~maintain any benefits granted by the school district regardless of~~
9 ~~whether the benefit is paid by the employee on leave or the~~
10 ~~association for which the person is serving as an officer, director,~~
11 ~~trustee, or agent~~ may be allowed to retain insurance coverage
12 pursuant to Section 1308.1 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

13 C. During the leave period, the school employee's position with
14 the school district shall be maintained without advancement on the
15 minimum salary schedule adopted pursuant to Section 5-141 of ~~Title~~
16 ~~70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title and with no accrual of sick
17 leave, personal business leave, or personal leave. The employee on
18 leave shall not accumulate service credit within the Teachers'
19 Retirement System of Oklahoma. Following the term of leave granted
20 pursuant to the provisions of this section, the employee granted
21 leave may return to his or her former position or a comparable
22 position.

1 D. A school district employee granted leave pursuant to the
2 provisions of this section shall be prohibited from accessing school
3 district office space.

4 E. If a national, statewide, or school district employee
5 association that serves as a school district employee organization
6 established pursuant to Section 509.2 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma~~
7 ~~Statutes~~ this title fails to comply with the provisions of this
8 section, the school district board of education shall no longer
9 recognize the organization as a representative of employees.

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

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

15
16 59-1-1512 EB 1/17/2023 1:06:23 PM
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25