

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2521

By: West (Tammy), Provenzano  
and Ranson of the House

3 and

4 Kidd of the Senate  
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8 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma  
9 Educator Loan Repayment Program; directing the State  
10 Department of Education to administer the Program;  
11 providing educational loan repayment assistance to  
12 certain teachers; providing repayment distribution  
13 based on contract up to certain amount; directing the  
14 Department to establish application process;  
15 requiring the Department to establish performance  
16 requirements and review certain reports for  
17 compliance; requiring certain review for each year of  
18 participation in the Program; providing eligibility  
19 requirements; authorizing the Department to accept  
20 certain funds; authorizing the Department to contract  
21 with other entities; creating the Educator Loan  
22 Repayment Revolving Fund; providing for  
23 appropriations and expenditures of fund; requiring  
24 Department to present certain report; defining term;  
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 2500 of Title 70, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment  
2 Program. The State Department of Education shall administer the  
3 Program.

4       B. The Program, depending upon and limited to available  
5 funding, shall provide educational loan repayment assistance to  
6 Oklahoma certified teachers who agree to work in a school district  
7 located in the state designated as a comprehensive support and  
8 improvement (CSI) school or targeted support and improvement (TSI)  
9 school.

10       C. Each award shall be for a contracted period and shall be  
11 distributed to the sponsoring entity on behalf of the teacher at the  
12 end of each contract year with disbursements not to exceed an amount  
13 to be established annually by the Department based on the  
14 availability of funds. A teacher participating in the Program is  
15 eligible to receive awards for four (4) years.

16       D. The Department shall develop an application process for  
17 teachers to apply for the Program.

18       E. The Department shall develop performance requirements for  
19 teachers in the Program to ensure the participating teacher meets  
20 the requirements set forth in this section and any additional  
21 requirements promulgated in administrative rules. Prior to any  
22 disbursement, the Department shall certify and review reports  
23 submitted by the participating teacher detailing performance of  
24 activities in accordance with the Program.

1 F. The Department shall review the performance of the teacher  
2 during each year in the Program and determine whether an award may  
3 be granted for additional years.

4 G. A teacher entering the Program shall agree to be employed  
5 and teach in a school designated as a comprehensive support and  
6 improvement (CSI) school or targeted support and improvement (TSI)  
7 school.

8 H. A teacher shall be eligible to participate in the loan  
9 repayment program if the individual is a:

- 10 1. Teacher that holds a current Oklahoma teaching certificate;
- 11 2. Recent graduate from an Oklahoma university or college; and
- 12 3. Teacher that has met other criteria established by the  
13 Department.

14 I. The Department may accept donations of public or private  
15 funds to assist in funding the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment  
16 Program. The Department may contract with other public entities and  
17 nonprofit corporations for the endowment, management and  
18 administration of such funds.

19 J. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
20 fund for the State Department of Education to be designated the  
21 "Educator Loan Repayment Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a  
22 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall  
23 consist of all monies received by the State Department of Education  
24 from public and private funds. All monies accruing to the credit of

1 said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended  
2 by the State Department of Education for the purpose of providing  
3 educational loan repayment assistance to Oklahoma certified teachers  
4 through the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment Program. Expenditures  
5 from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State  
6 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the  
7 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for  
8 approval and payment.

9 K. The Department shall present a report on the operation of  
10 the Program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within  
12 one (1) month of the beginning of each regular session of the  
13 Legislature, including but not limited to the progress made in  
14 accomplishing the goal of the Program.

15 L. For the purposes of this section, "teacher" shall mean a  
16 classroom teacher employed in a school in the State of Oklahoma who  
17 is a participant of the Oklahoma Educator Loan Repayment Program.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.  
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of March, 2019.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate