

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 15

By: Loveless

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating the Rural
8 Education Empowerment Act; providing short title;
9 requiring the administrative duties of school
10 districts that meet certain criteria to be combined;
11 directing the State Board of Education to take
12 certain action; requiring agreements between school
13 districts to address certain items; authorizing
14 receipt of certain funds; defining administrative
15 services; authorizing the Board to promulgate rules;
16 providing for codification; providing for
17 noncodification; providing an effective date; and
18 declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
21 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Rural Education
23 Empowerment Act".

24 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7-207 of Title 70, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
closing of any school or school facility.

1 B. Administrative services of a school district which meets the
2 criteria established in subsection C of this section shall be
3 combined with a contiguous school district or districts pursuant to
4 the provisions of this section.

5 C. 1. The administrative services of an independent school
6 district with an average daily membership of less than two hundred
7 and fifty (250) shall be combined upon the retirement, resignation
8 or departure by other means of the superintendent.

9 2. The administrative services of an elementary school district
10 with an average daily membership of less than two hundred and fifty
11 (250) shall be combined upon the retirement, resignation or
12 departure by other means of the superintendent.

13 D. The State Board of Education shall take action necessary to
14 assist school districts which meet the criteria established in
15 subsection C of this section to reach an agreement on combining the
16 administrative services of the school district with one or more
17 contiguous school districts. If the school districts cannot agree,
18 the Board shall formulate an agreement between the districts
19 outlining how the administrative services will be shared and how the
20 costs will be allocated. Any agreement for sharing administrative
21 services shall address the division of time of each employee,
22 payment of benefits for each employee, contributions to the
23 Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma for each employee and how
24 each employee will be counted for calculating certain weights for

1 purposes of the State Aid formula as provided for in Section 18-
2 201.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The agreement shall
3 also address payment of any employees who are employed on a
4 continuing multi-year contract at the time administrative services
5 are combined.

6 E. If one or more school districts in a county meet the
7 criteria established in subsection C of this section, the Board
8 shall work with all of the school districts in the county to combine
9 the administrative services of each school district into one
10 countywide administrative service to be shared by all school
11 districts in the county.

12 F. School districts which meet the criteria established in
13 subsection C of this section and enter into a mutual contract with a
14 superintendent as authorized pursuant to Section 5-106A of Title 70
15 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be authorized to receive funds from
16 the School Consolidation Assistance Fund created pursuant to Section
17 7-203 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

18 G. For purposes of this section, "administrative services"
19 shall mean the duties of any employee of a school district employed
20 as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, director,
21 coordinator, supervisor and the duties of any employee who has
22 responsibility for administrative functions of a school district,
23 including but not limited to human resources, purchasing, accounting
24

1 and information technology. "Administrative services" shall not
2 mean the duties of principals or assistant principals.

3 H. Money saved through administrative consolidation shall be
4 allocated by district boards of education in one or more of the
5 following areas:

6 1. Services provided in accordance with the Individuals with
7 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), P.L. No. 105-17;

8 2. Reimbursement to teachers for expenses related to obtaining
9 National Board certification;

10 3. Provision of advanced placement and other gifted and
11 talented programs; and

12 4. Technology.

13 I. The Board shall promulgate rules implementing the provisions
14 of this section.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

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

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