

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1579

By: Paxton of the Senate

and

Hilbert of the House

An Act relating to school employees; allowing a school district board of education to approve certain leave of absence request; requiring requesting employee to provide certain proof; requiring leave of absence to have certain beginning and end dates; providing for type of leave to be granted; prohibiting the maintenance of certain benefits during certain leave; allowing certain employee position to be maintained without accrual of certain leave or accumulation of certain service credit; prohibiting certain employee from accessing certain school district space; directing an association that serves as certain organization that fails to comply with certain provisions to no longer be recognized; and providing for codification.

SUBJECT: School employees

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 509.12 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A school district board of education may approve a request from a school district employee for a leave of absence to hold office as an officer, director, trustee, or agent of a national, statewide, or school district employee association. The employee requesting the leave shall provide the school district

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

B. Leave granted pursuant to this section shall be leave without pay. The school employee on leave shall not be entitled to maintain any benefits granted by the school district regardless of whether the benefit is paid by the employee on leave or the association for which the person is serving as an officer, director, trustee, or agent.

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

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

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

Passed the Senate the 7th day of March, 2022.

Zack Taylor
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of April, 2022.

Ryan Montgomery
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 27th
day of April, 20 22, at 12:10 o'clock pm . M.

By: Dennis Curry

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 29th
day of April, 20 22, at 10:53 o'clock a . M.

[Signature]
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 29th
day of April, 20 22, at 12:43 o'clock pm . M.

By: Paula Blasingame