An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 244

By: Jolley of the Senate

and

Coody of the House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-142, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 354, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Section 5-142), which relates to criminal history record check requirements for school personnel; and exempting from record check requirements a full-time or substitute teacher who has had a record check performed in the previous five years and is in good standing.

SUBJECT: Criminal history record check requirements for school personnel

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 5-142, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 354, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Section 5-142), is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-142. A. Except as otherwise provided for in subsection F of this section, for purposes of employment, a board of education may request in writing to the State Board of Education that a national criminal history record check be conducted of any employee of the school and shall request such information for any person seeking employment with the school. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) shall obtain fingerprints of the employee or prospective employee and require that the person pay a search fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars ($50.00) or the cost of the

search, whichever is the lesser amount. The fees shall be deposited in the OSBI Revolving Fund. School districts may reimburse employees for the cost of the search. The State Board of Education shall contact the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for any national criminal history record of the person within fourteen (14) working days of receiving a written request from the board of education.

B. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation shall provide the national criminal history record check requested by the State Board of Education within fourteen (14) working days from the receipt of the request. The Bureau may contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain the information requested.

C. The State Board of Education shall provide the information received from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to the board of education within fourteen (14) days from the receipt of the information. The State Board of Education shall provide any follow-up information received from the OSBI concerning a person for which a national criminal history record check was requested to the employing board of education.

D. For the purpose of this section:

1. "Board of education" includes both public and private boards of education within or outside this state;

2. "National criminal history record check" means a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

3. "Prospective employee" means an individual who has received an offer of temporary employment by a school district pending the results of the national criminal history record check.

E. Each public board of education within this state shall promulgate a statement regarding the felony record search policy for that school district. The policy may permit temporary employment of prospective employees for a maximum of sixty (60) days pending receipt of results of national criminal history record check requests. The temporary employment of the prospective employee shall terminate after sixty (60) days unless the school district

receives the results of the national criminal history record check. The sixty-day temporary employment period shall begin on the first day the prospective employee reports for duty at the employing school district. Prospective employees shall be notified of the requirement, the fee and the reimbursement policy when first interviewed concerning employment. The school district's reimbursement policy shall provide, at the minimum, that employees shall be promptly reimbursed in full for the fee if employed by the district at the time the national criminal history record check request is made unless the person was employed pending receipt of results as set forth above.

F. 1. Any person who has been employed as a full-time teacher by a school district in this state and applies for employment as a full-time teacher in another school district in this state may not be required to have a national criminal history record check if the teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the school district in which the teacher was employed stating the teacher left in good standing.

2. For any person applying for employment as a substitute teacher, a national criminal history record check shall be required for the school year; provided however, a board of education may choose whether to require a national criminal history record check from a prospective substitute teacher who has been employed by the school district in the last year. Any person applying for employment as a substitute teacher in more than one school district shall only be required to have one national criminal history record check, and, upon the request of the substitute teacher, that record check shall be sent to all other school districts in which the substitute teacher is applying to teach.

~~2.~~ 3. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school district in this state in the five (5) years immediately preceding an application for employment as a substitute teacher may not be required to have a national criminal history record check, if the teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the school district in which the teacher was last employed stating the teacher left in good standing.

4. Any person employed as a substitute teacher by a school district in this state for a minimum of five (5) years immediately preceding an application for employment as a full-time teacher in a school district in this state may not be required to have a national criminal history record check if the teacher produces a copy of a national criminal history record check completed within the preceding five (5) years and a letter from the school district in which the teacher was employed as a substitute teacher stating the teacher left in good standing.

~~3.~~ 5. Any person employed as a full-time teacher by a school district in this state for ten (10) or more consecutive years immediately preceding an application for employment as a substitute teacher in the same school district may not be required to have a national criminal history record check for as long as the person remains employed for consecutive years by that school district as a substitute teacher, if the teacher left full-time employment in good standing. If the teacher applies for employment as a substitute teacher in another school district, a national criminal history record check shall be required.

G. The provisions of this section shall not apply to technology center employees hired on a part-time or temporary basis for the instruction of adult students only.

H. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on school districts, except in negligence, for employing prospective employees within the sixty-day temporary employment window pending the results of the national criminal history record check.

Passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 2013.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of April, 2013.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 8th

day of April, 2013, at 3:00 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 12th

day of April, 2013, at 11:03 o'clock A M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 12th

day of April, 2013, at 1:39 o'clock P. M.

By: