## **HOUSE BILL No. 2378**

By Committee on Appropriations

2-19

AN ACT concerning schools; establishing the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program is hereby established for the purposes of: (1) Recognizing and rewarding the top outstanding elementary and secondary Kansas public school teachers and their schools; (2) attracting, rewarding and retaining outstanding teachers; and (3) encouraging the pursuit of teaching excellence. The Kansas legislature declares that providing Kansas children with a quality education through effective teaching is one of the core functions of state government and is vitally important to the workforce development needs and future economic success of our state.

- (b) The Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program shall be administered by the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence selection committee as provided for by subsection (c).
- (c) (1) There is hereby established the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence selection committee. The committee shall be composed of 13 members as follows:
- (A) One member of the Kansas association of secondary school principals appointed by such association who serves as a high school principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (B) one member of the Kansas association of middle school administrators appointed by such association who serves as a middle school principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (C) one member of the Kansas association of elementary school principals appointed by such association who serves as an elementary school principal, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (D) one member of the Kansas school superintendents association appointed by such association, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (E) two members of the Kansas business community appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and such members shall serve for terms of two years;
  - (F) two members of the Kansas business community appointed by the president of the senate, and such members shall serve for terms of two

years;

- (G) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (H) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, and such member shall serve for a term of one year:
- (I) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, and such member shall serve for a term of one year;
- (J) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate, and such member shall serve for a term of one year; and
- (K) the person who was designated teacher of the year in the prior school year, and such member shall serve for a term of one year.
- (2) All members of the committee shall serve without compensation or reimbursement for travel and subsistence or any other expenses.
- (3) All vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the same manner as originally filled.
- (d) The committee shall decide the process for nominating teachers for awards under the program. The application for such nomination shall be submitted in such form and manner as prescribed by the committee and shall contain such information as the committee shall require.
- (e) (1) Each school year, within the limitations of appropriations therefor, the committee shall select at least 15 elementary and secondary Kansas public school teachers from applicants based on the criteria specified in paragraph (2). Of the 15 teachers selected, there shall be at least three teachers from each congressional district. The committee shall select and award such teachers in the following manner:
- (A) One teacher as the program's most outstanding teacher. Such teacher shall be designated as the Kansas legislature teacher of the year and receive an award in the amount of \$20,000;
- (B) four teachers as finalists. Each such teacher shall receive an award in an amount of \$15,000;
- (C) at least 10 teachers as semi-finalists. Each such teacher shall receive an award in an amount of \$10,000; and
- (D) the schools from which the top teachers have been selected in accordance with this section shall each receive \$10,000. Such moneys shall be deposited by the school in accordance with subsection (g).
- (2) The criteria for selecting teachers for awards under this program shall include, but not be limited to:
  - (A) Effective instructional practices;
  - (B) improvement in student achievement; and
- (C) teacher attributes that engage, motivate and inspire students, colleagues and the community.

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(3) If the aggregate amount of moneys appropriated to the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence fund when added to any gifts and donations credited to such fund is less than the total dollar amount of awards to be distributed under this program, the committee shall reduce the number of program awards for teachers who are recognized as semi-finalists and the schools of such teachers.

- (4) No moneys received by any teacher under this program shall be construed to be an employment incentive or retention bonus as authorized by K.S.A. 72-8246, and amendments thereto.
- (f) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be made for the purpose of financing and administering the program awards under subsection (e). All such expenditures shall be authorized by the committee and made upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the committee. The committee may accept gifts and donations directly designated for the benefit of the program. Such gifts and donations shall be deposited into the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence fund within seven business days after receipt.
- (g) Upon receipt of an award by a school under subsection (e)(1)(D), the amount of the award shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district in which such school is located. Moneys deposited in the general fund of a school district in accordance with this subsection shall be considered reimbursements for the purpose of the school district finance and quality performance act.
- (h) The state department of education shall provide the committee, upon request, with assistance regarding the application, the nomination process, award ceremonies and any other needs of the committee relating to the oversight of the program.
- (i) On and after July 1, 2015, except for the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program, the state department of education shall not administer the Kansas teacher of the year program or any substantially similar successor teacher recognition and award program. Such substantially similar teacher recognition and award programs do not include educator awards established by the Milken family foundation.
  - (i) As used in this section:
- (1) "Classroom instructor" means an instructor who is responsible for a group of students and such responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (A) The assessment of students including the assignment of grades on a report card;
  - (B) the preparation of lesson plans;
  - (C) parent-teacher conferences;

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(D) discipline; and

- (E) day-to-day functioning of classes including duties such as attendance, lunch count, lunch and recess duty.
- (2) "Committee" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence selection committee.
- (3) "Fund" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence fund.
- (4) "Program" means the Kansas legislature award for teaching excellence program.
  - (5) "School year" means the period from July 1 to June 30.
  - (6) "State board" means the state board of education.
- (7) "Teacher" means any instructor who holds any type of teacher's license issued by the state board; is employed as a full-time classroom instructor in a public school; and has completed a minimum of five years as a classroom instructor.
- Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.