STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 43rd Legislature (1991)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1535 BY: FERGUSON

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTION 23, CHAPTER 2, O.S.L. SUPP. 1989 (70 O.S. SUPP. 1990, SECTION 6-122.3), WHICH RELATES TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM TEACHING CERTIFICATES; MODIFYING CERTAIN TEACHING LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 23, Chapter 2, O.S.L. Supp. 1989 (70 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. Beginning July 1, 1990, the State Board of Education shall grant an Alternative Program teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the State Board and meets all of the following criteria:

1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for a Secondary Certificate in mathematics or science or a foreign language;

3. Declares the intention to earn Provisional Level I Certification by means of the Alternative Certification Program in not more than three (3) years and the intention to earn Standard Certification by means of the Alternative Certification Program in not more than five (5) years. For the purposes of the Alternative Certification Program only, the requirements for the Professional Education component required for State Certification shall be as follows:

Provisional Level I Certificate	10 semester hours
Provisional Level II Certificate	14 semester hours
Standard Certificate	18 semester hours

Such requirements shall exclude all student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of this section;

4. Has passed the curriculum examination(s) in the area of specialization for which certification is sought; and

5. Presents a document from an accredited public school district in this state offering employment in the area of specialization for which certification is sought on condition that the person enroll in an Alternative Certification Program approved by the State Board of Education. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the holder of such certificate shall be considered an "entry-year teacher" for the purposes of Section 6-154 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. 1. Said certificate shall be renewed without necessity of certification each year for not more than two (2) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited public school district in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of specialization and a document from a teacher education institution

verifying satisfactory progress in the appropriate Alternative Certification Program.

2. Until such a time as the participant in the Alternative Certification Program has been awarded a Standard Teaching Certificate by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, such participant shall be subject to ~~the following~~ teaching limitations~~:~~

~~a. teaching only secondary mathematics classes which are more advanced than Algebra I, for participants with an area of specialization in the area of mathematics;~~

~~b. teaching only secondary science classes which are more advanced than General Science, for participants with an area of specialization in the area of science; and~~

~~c. teaching only secondary foreign language classes, for participants with an area of specialization in foreign languages~~ as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

C. Persons enrolled in an Alternative Certification Program shall:

1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Oklahoma State Board of Education to offer teacher education programs, nor have entered and subsequently failed to successfully meet the minimum requirements of such program;

2. Have been admitted to a teacher education program that meets the specifications provided in paragraph 1 of this subsection and complete, or have completed or enrolled in, not less than six (6) semester credit hours recognized for Alternative Certification Program credit before commencing teaching duties;

3. Document at least five (5) years of work experience outside of education which was related to the subject area of specialization;

4. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within five (5) years;

5. Participate in the Entry-year Assistance Program, Section 6-152 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

6. Have the same duties and responsibilities as other Entry-year Assistance Program participants.

D. Student teaching and prestudent teaching field experience shall not be required of Alternative Certification Program participants for Provisional Level I or any subsequent certification. At such time as a participant in an Alternative Certification Program has completed the other course requirements for Provisional Level I Certification and has been recommended for certification pursuant to the Entry-year Assistance Program, the State Board of Education shall grant the certificate. Award of the Provisional Level I Certificate under the Alternative Certification Program shall constitute satisfaction of all admissions requirements for standard certification.

E. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an annual report regarding participation in the Alternative Certification Program.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-1-5704 MCD