STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1665 By: Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3224, which relates to English fluency in institutions of higher education; stating legislative intent concerning fluency in English for graduate teaching assistants; stating legislative intent concerning evaluation and certification of English fluency; providing exceptions; authorizing certain penalties for noncompliance; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 1991, Section 3224, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3224. A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that all instructors, including all graduate teaching assistants, now employed or being considered for employment at institutions within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be proficient in speaking the English language so that they may adequately instruct students.

B. Exceptions to this statement of intent shall include the instruction of courses that are:

1. Designed to be taught predominantly in a foreign language; and

2. Elective, special arrangement courses such as individualized instruction and independent study courses.

C. It is further the intent of the Legislature that each institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall evaluate its instructional faculty for oral, aural, and written fluency in the English language in the classroom. By September 1 of each year, each state institution shall file with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education a certification stating that the instructional faculty members, whose native language is other than English, hired either after July 1, 1995, or hired subsequent to the last annual certification, are proficient in the English language. If the state institution does not comply with this section, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may impose a reduction in state funding of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) for each course taught by an uncertified faculty member.

D. Each college and university of the State System shall provide an annual report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma Legislature by January 1 of each year setting forth the following information:

1. Procedures established to guarantee faculty members have proficiency in both written and spoken English; and

2. Procedures established to inform students of grievance procedures regarding instructors who are not able to speak the English language.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

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.

45-1-5420 MCD