ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1342

By: Begley of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement teaching certification; modifying name of certificate; modifying criteria for an Alternative Preparation Program; adding certain criteria; providing that certificate shall be considered a valid teaching license; changing maximum renewal time; prohibiting the State Board of Education from approving a license until certain notice is received; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to promulgate certain rules; stating purpose of rules; requiring certain reports from teacher education institutions; providing for certain collaboration for annual report; providing deadline for submission of certain information; authorizing the Commission not to accredit certain teacher education programs in certain circumstances; requiring filing of certain plan and passage of certain tests; requiring mentor training of certain persons; requiring a formal agreement between certain entities; stating outline of

agreement; 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 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant ~~an Alternative Placement~~ a standard teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the State Board and meets all of the following criteria:

1. Has made application to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for admission into an Alternative Preparation Program;

2. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

~~2.~~ 3. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

~~3. Declares the intention to earn Standard Certification by means of the Alternative Placement Program in not more than three (3) years. For the purposes of the Alternative Placement Program only, the State Board of Education shall determine the subject matter of professional education component pursuant to this section, and the requirements for the Professional Education component required for Standard Certification shall be as follows:~~

~~a. baccalaureate degree, and eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or~~

~~b. postbaccalaureate degrees, teaching experience or subject matter work experience, or a combination of the three shall reduce the eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours by the following:~~

~~Degree or Experience~~	~~Hour Reduction~~
~~Master's Degree~~	~~6 semester hours or 90 clock hours~~
~~Doctorate Degree~~	~~6 semester hours or 90 clock hours~~
~~1 year teaching or subject matter work experience~~	~~3 semester hours or 45 clock hours~~
~~2 years teaching or subject matter work experience~~	~~6 semester hours or 90 clock hours~~
~~3 years teaching or subject matter work experience~~	~~9 semester hours or 135 clock hours~~
~~4 years teaching or subject matter work experience~~	~~12 semester hours or 180 clock hours,~~

~~c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours. Under no circumstance shall the number of hours be reduced to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours.~~

~~d. for~~

4. Has a minimum of two (2) years postbaccalaureate teaching experience or subject matter work experience which corresponds directly to the area of specialization for the Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-technical certificate. For purposes of this ~~section:~~ paragraph,

~~(1)~~ "teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a teacher in a public school, private school licensed or accredited by the

State Board of Education, or institution of higher education, and

~~(2)~~ "~~Subject~~ subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-technical certificate.

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

~~4.~~ 5. Has passed the ~~curriculum~~ general education competency examination and subject matter examination(s) in the area of specialization for which certification is sought; ~~and~~

~~5. Either presents~~ 6. 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~~ is enrolled in an Alternative ~~Placement~~ Preparation Program approved by the ~~State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in this state~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

7. Takes the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination and develops an Individualized Residency Plan based upon diagnostic information received from the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination;

8. Has successfully completed a teaching portfolio in collaboration with the residency committee which documents the candidate's competency in both the general and full teacher competencies approved by the State Board of Education;

9. Has successfully presented the teaching portfolio to the Competency Review Panel administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation; and

10. Has paid fees established by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the Competency Review Panel assessment.

The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a "valid ~~certificate of qualification~~ teaching license" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder of such ~~certificate~~ license shall be considered ~~an "entry-year teacher" for the purposes of Section 6-154 of this title~~ a "resident teacher" for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

B. Said certificate shall be renewed for not more than a maximum of ~~three (3)~~ 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~~ an Alternative ~~Placement~~ Preparation Program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

C. ~~Persons enrolled in an Alternative Placement 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 enrolled in and subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of such program, except those persons who hold a certificate;~~

~~2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;~~

~~3. Participate in the Entry-year Assistance Program, Section 6-152 et seq. of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other Entry-year Assistance Program participants, except those persons who hold a certificate; and~~

~~4. Document at least two (2) years of work experience which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person has only~~

~~a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to a person based on that person's ability to demonstrate specific competency in the subject area of specialization.~~

~~D. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be required of Alternative Placement Program participants for Standard Certification.~~

~~E. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Provided, however, such adjunct teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. Any such adjunct teachers shall be limited to ninety (90) clock hours per semester.~~

~~F. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding participation in the Alternative Placement Program.~~

~~G. After June 30, 1992, the State Board of Education shall not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program of any institution of higher education in this state that has not made a commitment to, and begun implementation of, Alternative Placement Programs~~ The State Board of Education shall not approve a license pursuant to this section until receiving notification from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation that the applicant has successfully completed all requirements for admissions into an Alternative Preparation Program.

D. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall promulgate rules pursuant to this section for the purposes of ensuring academic achievement and competency of each participant in an Alternative Preparation Program in the subject area and teaching level in which the person is seeking licensure to teach.

E. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding participation in the Alternative Preparation Program. The Office of Accountability shall collaborate and coordinate with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, the State Department of Education, the State Regents for Higher Education, and the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education when determining what information shall be contained in the annual report.

F. Information required to be collected by education institutions and local districts employing a participant in an Alternative Preparation Program shall be provided to the Office of Accountability no later than June 30 of each year.

G. After June 30, 1997, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation may not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program of an institution of higher education in this state that has not worked collaboratively with a local school district in the development and implementation of Alternative Preparation Programs in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics, science and a foreign language, whereby individuals who meet the criteria of ~~subsections A and C of~~ this section are:

1. Admitted without further qualification; and

2. Offered the opportunity to complete the Standard Certification ~~course~~ requirements set forth in ~~subsection A of~~ this section ~~during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year of teaching under the Alternative Placement Program. Provided, however, any person seeking Alternative Placement shall be permitted to take necessary courses during regular semesters if offered~~ and the Individualized Residency Plan during the first two (2) years of any residency period.

H. Persons enrolled in an Alternative Preparation 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 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of such program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of higher education with a teacher education program accredited by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an individualized plan for meeting standard certification requirements within two (2) years, including passing all Commission-required teacher competency examinations;

3. Participate in the residency program established pursuant to Section 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other residency program participants, except those persons who hold a certificate; and

4. Document at least two (2) years of work experience which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area. The Commission for Teacher Preparation may grant an exception to a person based on that person's ability to demonstrate specific competency in the subject area of specialization.

I. A candidate's mentor teacher, supervising administrator, and college university supervisor shall receive mentor training in a mentor training Professional Development Institute approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

J. The local school district employing a participant in an Alternative Preparation Program and the institution of higher education with which the local school district is collaborating

shall develop a formal agreement outlining the responsibilities of each entity in relation to the Alternative Preparation Program of the teacher candidate.

~~H.~~ K. The criteria specified in ~~subsection G of~~ this section can be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more institutions of higher education or local school districts.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1997.

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 1997.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President of the Senate