

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1412

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 3, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 6-182), which relates to teacher education; clarifying language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

1. "Board" ~~means~~ shall mean the State Board of Education;
2. "Commission" ~~means~~ shall mean the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;
3. "State Regents" ~~means~~ shall mean the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;
4. "Licensed teacher" ~~means~~ shall mean any person who holds a valid license to teach, issued by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;
5. "Professional development program" ~~means~~ shall mean the program mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the

continuous improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of this state;

6. "Teacher education professional development committee" ~~means~~ shall mean the committee created in Section 7 of this act for the continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

7. "Department" ~~means~~ shall mean the State Department of Education;

8. "Residency committee" ~~means~~ shall mean a committee in a local school district for the purpose of reviewing the teaching performance of a resident teacher and making recommendations to the Board and the preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of the resident teacher. A residency committee shall consist of a mentor teacher, the principal or an assistant principal of the employing school or an administrator designated by the local board and a teacher educator in a college or school of education of an institution of higher education, or an educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher education unit.

Provided that, if available, qualified mentor teachers shall have expertise in the teaching field of the resident teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of the residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in all cases, at least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher;

9. "Resident teacher" ~~means~~ shall mean any licensed teacher who is employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher under the guidance and assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee. Any such person shall have completed the program of the college or school of education of the accredited institution of higher education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have

successfully completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

10. "Certified teacher" ~~means~~ shall mean any teacher who has been issued a certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

11. "Mentor teacher" ~~means~~ shall mean any teacher holding a standard certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a teacher and who has been appointed to provide guidance and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching experience as a certified teacher.

A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list submitted by the bargaining unit where one exists. In the absence of a bargaining agent, the teachers shall elect the names to be submitted. No teacher may serve as a mentor teacher for more than one resident teacher at a time;

12. "Higher education faculty" ~~means~~ shall mean any individual who is employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the preparation of education personnel; and

13. "Competency examination" ~~means~~ shall mean the assessment required in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for licensure and certification as a teacher and shall consist of tests over general education, professional education and subject areas as defined by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

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.

46-1-5371

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