

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2479

By: Begley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring the State Board of Education to grant a teaching certificate to persons upon completion of certain requirements; providing criteria for issuance of a license; providing for status of a license issued under alternative certification section; requiring certain notification from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation; providing for renewal of license in certain cases; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to promulgate certain rules establishing certain standards; requiring certain institutions and schools to provide certain information to the Office of Accountability; requiring certain collaboration; allowing the Commission to not accredit certain institutions for not submitting an alternative placement plan; providing for contents of an alternative preparation plan; requiring the Commission to approve each alternative preparation plan; stating qualifications of participants in an alternative preparation plan; requiring certain persons to receive mentor training; stating additional requirements for alternative certification; providing for certification upon

completion of certain requirements; providing for application of the section and existing law; directing the State Board of Education to promulgate rules relating to adjunct teachers; repealing 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-128, which relates to exceptional child course requirement; repealing 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement teaching certification; providing for codification; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall grant a standard teaching certificate to a person who first obtains a teaching license pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section and satisfactorily completes an alternative preparation program as required by the provisions of this section.

B. The State Board of Education shall issue a license, which shall be valid for one (1) year, to a person who has met all of the following criteria:

1. Has made application for alternative preparation to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

2. Has been admitted into an alternative preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

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

4. 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;

5. 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 paragraph, "teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a teacher in a public school or private school accredited by the State Board of Education, an institution of higher education or equivalent entities of another state. Teaching experience shall not include student teaching requirements. For purposes of this paragraph, "subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for the Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-technical certificate.

The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation may grant an exception to the requirements of this paragraph and paragraph 4 of this subsection to a person based on the ability of that person to demonstrate specific competency in the subject area of specialization;

6. Has passed the general education competency examination and subject matter examination(s) requirements specified by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in the area of specialization for which certification is sought;

7. 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 placement program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation; and

8. Has taken the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination for purposes of developing an individual residency plan based upon diagnostic information received from the examination results.

C. A license issued pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section shall be considered a "valid teaching license" for purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and the holder of the license shall be considered a "resident teacher" for purposes of Section 6-195 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. The State Board of Education shall not issue a license pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of this section until receiving notification from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation that the applicant has met all of the criteria set forth in subsection B of this section. The Board shall annually renew the license upon presentation of a document from a public school district in this state offering renewed employment to the person in the same area of specialization and upon verification from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation that the Commission has received documentation from the residency committee verifying satisfactory progress by the person in the alternative preparation program. The Board shall not renew the license more than two times.

E. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall promulgate rules implementing the provisions of this section and for approving and establishing standards for an alternative preparation program. The standards shall ensure academic achievement and competency of each participant in an alternative preparation program in the subject area and teaching level in which the participant is seeking certification to teach.

F. Each teacher education institution with alternative preparation program participants and each school district employing

a participant in an alternative preparation program shall by June 30 of each year provide to the Office of Accountability any information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding the alternative preparation program in which the institution or school district is involved. 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 for purposes of determining the information to be submitted by each institution and school district.

G. Beginning January 1, 1999, 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 submitted an alternative placement plan for approval to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation by November 1 of each year.

H. The alternative preparation plan shall address major competency areas assessed in the competency and subject area examinations and shall identify specific course offering in each competency area in the institution's teacher preparation program that are available to address deficiencies in each competency area. The plan shall also include a brief description of the courses and the latest course syllabi.

I. Each alternative preparation plan shall be approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. A plan may be established by an institution of higher education, a school district employing a participant in collaboration with an institution of higher education, or a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more institutions of higher education or school districts.

J. Participants 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 or the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of the program;

2. Have an individualized residency plan on file with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or the director of the teacher preparation program to meet standard certification requirements within two (2) years, including passing all teacher competency examinations required by the Commission; and

3. Participate in a residency program as provided for in Section 6-195 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and have the same duties and responsibilities as any other licensed teacher participating in a residency program, except for those persons who hold a certificate.

K. The mentor teacher, supervising administrator, and college university supervisor for each participant in an alternative preparation program shall receive mentor training in a Professional Development Institute approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

L. In addition to any other requirements established by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, to receive alternative certification the participant shall:

1. Complete a teaching portfolio in collaboration with the residency committee which documents the competency of the participant in both the general and full teacher competencies approved by the State Board of Education;

2. Present the teaching portfolio to the Competency Review Panel administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

3. Pay all fees established by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the Competency Review Panel assessment; and

4. Pass the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination.

M. A person issued a license pursuant to subsection B of this section and who has completed the requirements of an alternative preparation program and the requirements set forth in subsection L of this section shall upon application to the State Board of Education receive a standard teaching certificate.

N. The alternative preparation system established in this section shall be implemented by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1999, and shall apply to persons who submit applications on or after January 1, 1999. Persons who have submitted applications for or who have been admitted to the Alternative Placement Program established in Section 6-122.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes prior to January 1, 1999, shall continue in that Program with the State Department of Education until January 1, 2002.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.5 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules authorizing adjunct teachers, who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. An adjunct teacher shall not be allowed to teach more than one hundred eighty (180) clock hours per semester.

SECTION 3. REPEALER 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-128, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. REPEALER 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 177, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-122.3), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 6. Section 4 of this act shall become effective January 1, 2002.

SECTION 7. 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.

46-2-8244

KB