

SHORT TITLE: Schools; transferring responsibility for alternative teacher preparation from the State Department of Education to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. Effective dates. Emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 1424

By: Williams

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 11, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-190), which relates to qualifications for teacher employment, licensure and certification; providing criteria for alternative teacher preparation program; according certain licenses and certificates certain status; providing definitions; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to promulgate certain rules; stating purpose of rules; requiring certain reports from teacher education institutions and school districts to Office of Accountability; making certain accreditation contingent on submission of certain plan by certain date; stating contents of alternative preparation plan; stating alternative preparation program participant requirements; requiring mentor training for certain persons; requiring certain portfolio to be submitted and certain fees to be paid by applicants for certain certification; stating implementation date for certain system; requiring continuation of certain program until certain date; requiring State Board of Education to promulgate rules regarding adjunct teachers; authorizing adjunct teachers to teach certain number of hours; removing certain

requirement for certain certification; clarifying statutory reference; authorizing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Commission to establish model mid-career teacher programs; establishing certain grant program; 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 certification 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 to a person based on that person's ability 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. Either 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 preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation or declares the

intention to seek employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in this state; 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 one time.

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 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and the Oklahoma 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 preparation 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 offerings 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 submitted to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for approval. 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 all 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 by January 1, 1999, shall continue in that Program with the State Department of Education until June 30, 2001.

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. AMENDATORY Section 11, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 1997 (70 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in Section 6-101 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title, only

with persons certified or licensed to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided by law.

B. The Board shall issue a license to teach to any person who:

1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program required by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1, 1997;

2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the Board;

4. Has made the necessary application and paid the curriculum examination fee as prescribed by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and beginning July 1, 1997, paid the competency examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission. All monies received by the Board or Commission from examination fees shall be deposited to the appropriate Revolving Fund created in Section 6-191 of this title; and

5. Has successfully completed the examination in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act.

C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person who:

1. Holds a license to teach in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act;

2. Has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a resident teacher;

3. Has made the necessary application and paid the certification fee as prescribed by the Board; and

4. Has been recommended for certification by the residency committee; or

5. Holds an out-of-state certificate ~~and meets standards set by the Board.~~

D. If a resident teacher is a graduate of an out-of-state institution of higher education, the recommendation of the residency committee shall be made to the State Board of Education.

E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional development requirements prescribed by this act or by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.6 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, is hereby authorized to establish in any of its teacher preparation programs at Oklahoma institutions for higher education, model mid-career teaching programs specifically designed for mid-career persons seeking teacher certification in their field of specialization. The curriculum of the model mid-career teaching programs shall be comprised of intensive comprehensive study of teaching theory, methodology, and innovations in classroom learning.

B. Subject to the availability of funds, Mid-Career Teachers Grants shall be awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to assist in the establishment of mid-career teacher preparation programs in existing teacher preparation programs.

SECTION 5. 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 6. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this act shall become effective July 1, 1998.

SECTION 7. Section 5 of this act shall become effective January 1, 2001.

SECTION 8. 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.

46-2-2276

PHB