ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 1237

By: Williams and Campbell of the Senate

and

Paulk of the House

[schools - teacher competency examinations - reimbursement of fees - effective date - emergency]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 308, O.S.L. 1992, as renumbered by Section 34, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, and as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 311, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 6-188), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-188. A. The curriculum examination which was required by Section 6-156 of this title shall be restructured into a competency examination by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation with the assistance of the State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-184 of this title concurrently with the development of the new teacher preparation system. The competency-based teacher examination shall replace the current teacher curriculum examination which was established in Sections 6-150 through 6-158 and 6-162 through 6-170 of this title. The new teacher competency examination shall be ready for implementation and administered by the Commission beginning July 1, 1997. The competency examination shall serve as a threshold for entry into the profession.

B. By September 1, 1995, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall develop and release a request for proposals for

the state teacher competency examination which assesses candidates for licensure and certification for demonstrated competency in subject matter, professional education, and state core knowledge and skills assessment, which includes critical thinking, communication and computation. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall accept bids in an open, competitive bidding process until January 1, 1996. The Commission shall review all bids and proposals and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by March 1, 1996. In evaluating the bids and proposals the Commission shall take into consideration the cost of developing, administering and scoring the competency examination, the cost to each individual tested and to the state, and shall factor in the cost of periodically updating the state competency examination. The curriculum examination as was required by Section 6-156 of this title and in effect July 1, 1994, shall continue to be offered by the State Board of Education until July 1, 1997. Beginning July 1, 1997, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall have authority to continue to offer that examination as needed and to determine whether a student should take that test in lieu of the competency examination.

C. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall reimburse teachers for fees paid for successful completion of competency examinations upon such teacher entering into a contract to teach with any public school district in Oklahoma.

D. Successful completion of the curriculum examination as was required by Section 6-156 of this title shall be sufficient to satisfy the competency examination requirement for any person seeking certification in administration who successfully completed the examination prior to May 1, 1999, and who completes a masters degree in school administration or education administration from an

accredited institution of higher education prior to December 31, 1999.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2000.

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 Senate the 1st day of March, 2000.

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President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2000.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives