

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 34

By: Crutchfield and Williams  
of the Senate

and

Boyd of the House

An Act relating to education; amending Section 3, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 3-126), which relates to educational improvement plans; authorizing State Board of Education to grant certain certification exemption to certain school districts; amending Section 5, Chapter 308, O.S.L. 1992, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, and as renumbered by Section 34, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 6-188), which relates to restructuring of curriculum examination system; authorizing certain examination to meet certain requirement; granting extension of certain provisional certificate; creating the Task Force on Speech-Language Pathologists in the Public Schools; providing for appointments, officers, meetings, quorum, duties, compensation, reimbursement, and staff support; requiring certain report; providing for codification; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 1995, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 343, O.S.L. 1996 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 3-126), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-126. A. A school district may develop an educational improvement plan which includes exemption from the educational-related statutory requirements set forth in subsection C of this section and State Board of Education rules for the school district, a school site or any program, grade level, consortium of schools or school districts or other group within the school district. The board of education of the school district shall, through adoption of a resolution, approve the plan prior to application being made to the State Board of Education.

B. Each educational improvement plan approved by the State Board of Education shall include the following components:

1. A description of the educational benefits to be derived;

2. A definition of the standards of the plan;
3. Development of definitive work products, such as site improvement plans and progress reports;
4. Demonstration of collaboration by teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and the community;
5. Development and the use of an assessment mechanism to determine progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan;
6. Development of an in-service training plan to be provided to personnel at the site who will participate in the project;
7. Report on the results of the plan to the State Board of Education and provision of appropriate technical assistance to other school districts and the State Department of Education as required; and
8. Explanation of how the plan will affect other schools, programs or sites in the district.

C. Each educational improvement plan shall include a list of the specific educational-related statutory requirements and State Board of Education rules the school district is requesting an exemption from and why each exemption is necessary to success of the plan. The school district shall not be granted an exemption from federal educational-related requirements. A school district may request an exemption from any statutory requirement or State Board of Education rule not related to bilingual and special education programs, health and safety provisions, school finance, State Aid, pupil formula weights, teacher salary and teacher retirement, the Oklahoma School Testing Program, the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program and the teacher preparation, examination, licensure, certification, residency and professional development system. The State Board of Education may grant district-wide exemptions from certification requirements for Library Media Specialists to districts experiencing a shortage in this area.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 5, Chapter 308, O.S.L. 1992, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, and as renumbered by Section 34, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 6-188), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-188. The curriculum examination which was required by Section 6-156 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ 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 ~~5~~ 6-184 of this ~~act~~ 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.

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 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ 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.

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 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-190.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Individuals who held a provisional certificate during the 1998-1999 school year in Speech-Language Pathology shall be granted a three-year extension of the provisional certificate by the State Board of Education. On and after July 1, 2002, provisional certificates may be renewed on an annual basis, provided the individual documents admission to and progress toward completion of the relevant master's degree program.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. To address the needs of public school districts in Oklahoma to employ qualified speech-language pathologists, there is hereby created, to continue until December 31, 1999, the Task Force on Speech-Language Pathologists in the Public Schools.

B. The composition of the Task Force shall be as follows:

1. Three members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
2. Three members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
3. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;
4. The State Secretary of Education, or designee;
5. The chair of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, or designee;
6. The Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher Education, or designee;
7. The chair of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board of Examiners, or designee;
8. A representative from each degree-granting speech-language pathology higher education program within the state to be designated as follows:
  - a. the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the representatives from the University of Oklahoma, Northeastern State University, and the University of Tulsa, and
  - b. the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name the representatives from Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; and
9. A representative of a relevant statewide professional association concerned with the profession of speech-language pathology, to be named by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
  - C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall name the chair of the Task Force. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name the vice-chair.
  - D. Required appointments shall be made on or before August 1, 1999. The first meeting of the Task Force shall be convened not later than September 15, 1999, with subsequent meetings to be held at the call of the chair. A majority of the members appointed shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of any business.
  - E. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Oklahoma State Senate staff and the Oklahoma House of Representatives staff.
  - F. The Task Force shall:
    1. Study the certification requirements of speech-language pathologists;
    2. Study the availability of qualified speech-language pathologists;

3. Study the availability of masters level programs in speech-language pathology;

4. Recommend strategies for meeting the needs of public school districts for speech-language pathologists by the 2002-2003 school year; and

5. Submit a report of findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 1999, to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and involved agencies.

G. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by the legislative body in which they serve for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. State agency employees who are members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties by their respective agencies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act; and

3. All other Task Force members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 5. 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 25th day of May, 1999.

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President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of May, 1999.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

