

ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1595

By: Williams of the Senate

and

Nations of the House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, which relates to teacher competency examinations; requiring successful completion of the competency examination for licensure; excepting Alternative Placement Program candidates; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-190, which relates to qualifications for teacher licensure and certification; requiring successful completion of the competency examination for licensure; deleting requirement for portion of competency examination for certification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1-109, which relates to length of school day; deleting professional days for certain teachers for certain purpose; allowing additional professional days for teachers for certain purposes; providing for substitute in certain circumstances; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, which relates to teacher competency examinations; requiring successful completion of the competency examination for licensure; excepting Alternative Placement Program candidates; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-190, which relates to qualifications for teacher licensure and certification; requiring successful completion of the competency examination for licensure; deleting requirement for portion of competency examination for certification; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, which relates to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Program; deleting certain professional days requirement; allowing additional professional days for teachers for National Board certification portfolio development; providing for a substitute in certain circumstances; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1-109, is amended to read as follows:

Section 70-1-109. A. A school year for all public schools in Oklahoma shall consist of at least ten (10) months of four (4) weeks each, during which time school shall actually be in session and instruction offered for not less than one hundred eighty (180) days. Five (5) days may be used for attendance of professional meetings and teachers may be paid for a length of term in excess thereof, under conditions hereinafter outlined. Subject to district board of education policy, ~~teachers who have submitted an application for National Board certification shall either be allowed to utilize two (2) of their five (5) professional days for National Board certification portfolio development or be provided an additional two (2) professional days during which~~ or collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days may be granted for individual teachers to attend or participate in professional meetings, staff development training, or National Board certification portfolio development. During two (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the teacher. A school district may authorize parent-teacher conferences to be held during a regular school day. Following such authorization by the school district, these conferences shall be counted towards a school day, as defined in Section 1-111 of this title, and included as part of the one hundred seventy-five (175) days of classroom instruction. A school district may maintain school for less than a full term only when conditions beyond the control of school authorities make the maintenance of the term impossible and the State Board of Education has been apprised and has expressed concurrence in writing.

B. The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for an extended day schedule. The criteria shall:

1. Prescribe a lengthened school day within limits determined not to be detrimental to quality instruction; and

2. Ensure that the schedule is equivalent in annual hours of instruction to the one-hundred-eighty-day school year specified in subsection A of this section; and

3. Be consistent with the provisions of this section and Sections 1-110 through 1-112 of this title, but may result in fewer annual days of instruction.

The State Board of Education may authorize school districts to implement an extended day schedule for instruction pursuant to the criteria developed. The State Board of Education shall require the participating school districts to prepare a report of the impact of the extended day schedule.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general education, professional education and various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section, shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the confidentiality of examinations.

B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until successfully completing the ~~general education and subject area portions of the~~ competency examination except those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title. ~~No licensed teacher shall be eligible for certification until~~

~~successfully completing the professional education portion of the competency examination.~~ Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully completed the examination. Testing for certification for subjects in which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education, professional education or subject area portions of the examination subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

C. A teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully completed the subject area portion of the examination.

D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the Commission.

E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however, prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the local district shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard certificate or with a license in another curricular area with academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, 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 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 competency examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

5. Has successfully completed the ~~general education and subject area portions of the~~ competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national fingerprint-based criminal history record provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

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

1. a. holds a license to teach in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act,

- b. has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a resident teacher,
- c. ~~has successfully completed the professional education portion of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title,~~
- ~~d.~~ has made the necessary application and paid the certification fee as prescribed by the Board, and
- ~~e.~~
- d. has been recommended for certification by the residency committee;

2. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets standards set by the Board; or

3. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-204.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-204.2 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and the State Board of Education are authorized to establish the Education Leadership Oklahoma program.

B. The purposes of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program are:

- 1. Provide teachers throughout the state information about National Board certification and the Education Leadership Oklahoma program scholarships and services;

2. Provide technical assistance and National Board certified mentors to all teachers seeking National Board certification upon request;

3. Provide scholarships, pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation rules, for teachers seeking National Board certification;

4. Provide a bonus to teachers who achieve National Board certification pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act and State Board of Education rules;

5. Reward teachers who achieve National Board certification without the financial support of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program by awarding them the application fee and the amount of the scholarship given to Education Leadership Oklahoma participants pursuant to this section and commission rules; and

6. Provide recognition to National Board certified teachers.

C. To fulfill the objectives of the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

1. Inform teachers of the Education Leadership Oklahoma program and the scholarships and services it provides to teachers seeking National Board certification;

2. Collect and review applications to the scholarship program from interested teachers;

3. Establish an applicant review committee for the purpose of identifying scholarship recipients pursuant to the Education Leadership Oklahoma Act for the Education Leadership Oklahoma program; and

4. Ensure that all scholarship recipients, alternates, and teachers seeking National Board certification independently receive adequate information regarding the level of commitment required to acquire National Board certification.

D. The applicant review committee shall:

1. Consist of:

- a. five classroom teachers appointed by the State Board of Education, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available,
- b. five classroom teachers appointed by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available,
- c. three classroom teachers appointed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, at least one of whom shall be a National Board certified teacher, if available, and
- d. a chair to be designated by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation from among the appointed members; and

2. Select up to two hundred teachers for the 1999-00 class, up to four hundred teachers beginning with the 2000-01 class and every year thereafter, and the appropriate number of alternates, who:

- a. have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in teaching,
- b. meet all eligibility requirements for potential certification as established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards,
- c. are employed in an Oklahoma public school, and
- d. meet other requirements of the Commission.

E. Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this subsection, the application fee for National Board certification shall be paid for scholarship recipients by the Commission, and scholarship recipients shall be provided a scholarship in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to cover other expenses associated with obtaining National Board certification.

F. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation contract with Southeastern Oklahoma State University to establish Education Leadership Oklahoma program training in higher education teacher preparation programs in the state to assist teachers in meeting the requirements to obtain National Board certification.

G. All teachers seeking National Board certification shall be eligible to participate in Education Leadership Oklahoma program training to assist them in meeting the requirements of the National Board certification process, free of charge.

H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall promulgate rules for the selection of scholarship recipients, the selection and utilization of alternates, the payment and reimbursement of application fees, and the issuance of scholarships.

I. Subject to district board of education policy, ~~teachers who have submitted an application for National Board certification shall either be allowed to utilize two (2) of their five (5) professional days for National Board certification portfolio development or be provided an additional two (2) professional days during which~~ or collective bargaining agreement, additional professional leave days may be granted to teachers seeking National Board certification for National Board certification portfolio development. During the two (2) days of the additional professional days granted to teachers for National Board certification portfolio development, a substitute teacher shall be provided by the school district at no cost to the teacher.

J. The State Board of Education shall provide all teachers who attain National Board certification a bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) annually no later than January 31 for as long as they maintain their National Board certification and are teaching in the classroom full-time in an Oklahoma public school. No

school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section.

K. The bonus shall not be included in the calculation of the teacher's salary for purposes of meeting the district or statutory minimum salary schedule or for purposes of compensating Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System contributions or benefits.

L. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules for the provision of the bonus pursuant to this section to include, but not be limited to, a process by which a National Board certified teacher will verify that:

1. The National Board certification has not lapsed; and
2. The teacher is still a full-time classroom teacher.

M. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education incorporate the National Board certification portfolio development into all programs in education leading to a master's level degree.

N. Upon implementation of this subsection as provided for in subsection O of this section, the State Board of Education shall provide all teachers who attain National Board certification a bonus in the amount of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) annually no later than January 31 for as long as they maintain their National Board certification and are teaching in the classroom full-time in an Oklahoma public school. No school or school district shall be liable for payment of bonuses pursuant to this section. Upon implementation, the bonus provided for in this subsection shall replace the bonus provided for in subsection J of this section.

O. Implementation of subsection N of this section shall be delayed until the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for the 1998-99 school year or any school year thereafter for Oklahoma, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics annually in the Digest of Education Statistics, reaches at least

ninety percent (90%) of the regional average expenditure for that same year, and funds are provided. For purposes of this subsection, the regional average expenditure shall consist of the current expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in public elementary and secondary schools in unadjusted dollars for each of the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, averaged together. By January 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall report whether or not the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached based on information reported annually in the Digest of Education Statistics by the National Center for Education Statistics. Subsection N of this section shall be implemented on July 1 after the first January 1 report verifies that the ninety-percent expenditure level has been reached and funds have been provided for the specific purposes of the section.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

SECTION 6. 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 House of Representatives the 11th day of April, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

