

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

HOUSE BILL HB1600

By: Morgan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 21, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2000 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-200), which relates to professional development institutes; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to develop professional development institutes for teachers in low-performing middle grades schools; providing for contents of the institutes; establishing length of the institutes; allowing for teacher stipends; authorizing the Commission to expand the institutes for all middle grades teacher; amending Section 10, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-189), which relates to licensure and certification system; directing the State Board of Education to adopt licensure and certification competencies for middle grades; stating certain options; prohibiting school districts from employing middle grades teachers without a middle grades license or certificate; allowing school districts to employ certain teachers for certain time; requiring certain teachers to obtain middle grade certification by a certain date; allowing certain teachers to take certain examination free of charge; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 21, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 289, O.S.L. 2000 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-200), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-200. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall have authority to develop and administer training for residency committees and training for professional development through professional development institutes. Included in the professional development institutes training shall be technology training. Professional

development institutes shall be accepted by the State Board of Education for professional development purposes and shall be defined as continuing education experiences which consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours. The institutes shall be competency-based, emphasize effective learning practices, require collaboration among participants, and require each participant to prepare a work product which can be utilized in the classroom by the participant. Any state professional development institutes administered by the Commission shall be chosen through a competitive bid process and if funds are available subject to peer review. The Commission, prior to offering any professional development institute, shall promulgate rules related to administering state professional development institutes.

B. With the funds appropriated in House Bill No. 1872 of the 1st Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature specifically for the purpose of funding professional development institutes in intensive elementary reading, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall develop, offer and administer professional development institutes to train elementary school teachers in reading education. The funds shall be used for the cost of developing, administering and contracting for the professional development institutes. When possible, certified reading specialists shall be included as consultants. All costs of the institutes shall be included in the contract price and no tuition or registration fee shall be collected from teachers attending the institutes. The institutes shall be offered by or through the Commission. Working in conjunction with the State Department of Education, the Commission shall develop a state plan for administration of such institutes and shall report to the Governor and the Legislature on the format of and participation in the institutes. The State Department of Education shall cooperate with and provide any information requested to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation as is necessary to carry out the

provisions of this subsection. As additional funds become available for such purpose, the Commission shall develop and offer professional development institutes in mathematics for teachers in grades five through nine, the use of technology in the classroom, training of residency committee members in teacher mentoring and in hands-on inquiry-based science for elementary teachers.

C. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

1. Make available in Fiscal Year 1999, a three-day follow-up professional development institute for teachers who participated in an elementary school reading professional development institute during Fiscal Year 1998;

2. Provide five-day initial professional development institutes in elementary school reading for elementary school teachers and instructional leaders;

3. Contract for an independent evaluation of the elementary school reading professional development institute; and

4. Provide continued support of the elementary school reading professional development institutes through ongoing teacher development at individual school sites. Funds may be used for the cost of mentor training, payment for substitute teachers, on-site facilitation, and any other costs necessary to ensure improved reading by students.

D. Subject to the availability of funds, the Commission shall develop, offer, and administer professional development institutes for teachers at low-performing middle grades schools. The institutes shall provide academic work in the content areas of mathematics, science, English/language arts, or social studies combined with training in how to best teach young adolescents. Each institute shall be a year long program, beginning with a summer program then providing day long programs during the school year and finishing with a final summer program. Funds may be used to provide

stipends to participating teachers. As additional funds become available, the Commission shall expand the institutes to all middle grades teachers.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 10, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-189), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-189. A. The licensure and certification system required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act as part of the new teacher preparation system shall be competency-based. The competencies for licensure and certification shall be integrated with competencies specified in Section ~~6~~ 6-185 of this ~~act~~ title. By July 1, 1996, the State Board of Education shall adopt general competencies for licensure and certification, and by January 1, 1997, the Board shall have adopted full competencies and implemented the licensure and certification systems as required in this act. No higher education courses or credit hours may be specified by the State Board of Education in rules for licensure or certification. Nothing in the State Board of Education's licensure and certification rules shall prohibit the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education from adopting policies and procedures it deems appropriate for coursework, grade point average, or credit hours for teacher preparation at institutions in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

B. The requirements for a certificate for superintendent of schools and principal shall include not less than a standard master's degree, such other professional education and requirements as may be fixed by the State Board of Education, and a minimum of two (2) years' successful teaching, supervisory or administrative experience in public schools.

C. Certificates may be revoked by the State Board of Education for willful violation of any rule of the State Board of Education or of any federal or state law or other proper cause but only after

sufficient hearing has been given before the State Board of Education.

D. Teaching in a Head Start program or programs shall be used for renewal of a standard teaching certificate.

E. By July 1, 2002, the State Board of Education shall adopt general competencies for licensure and certification of middle grades teachers. The options for middle grades certification shall include but not be limited a secondary level certification with competencies in young adolescent learning or an elementary level certification with competencies in an academic subject area.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-189.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning July 1, 2003, no school district shall employ any teacher to teach in grades six, seven or eight, unless the teacher is licensed or certified to teach the middle grades. A school district may employ a teacher without such a license or certificate until September 1, 2004, if the teacher became licensed or certified to teach prior to July 1, 2002.

B. Any teacher who became licensed or certified to teach prior to July 1, 2002, does not have middle grades certification and is employed by a school as a teacher for grades six, seven or eight shall be required to obtain middle grades certification before September 1, 2004.

C. Any teacher seeking middle grades certification pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be eligible to take the curriculum examinations required for middle grade certification one time free of charge after July 1, 2003.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

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.

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