

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE BILL 813

By: Williams

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 202, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement programs; authorizing licensure of certain applicants; deleting certain course requirements; modifying examination requirement; deleting certain documentation requirements; modifying eligibility criteria; authorizing certain license to serve as certain certificate; requiring State Board of Education to administer alternative teacher assistance program; authorizing State Board of Education to grant teaching certificate to certain individuals; deleting certain reporting requirement of teacher education institutions; deleting certain accreditation criteria; authorizing licensure or certification to certain persons enrolled in Alternative Placement Program; directing State Department of Education to administer alternative teacher assistance program; stating guidelines for program; providing composition of alternative teacher assistance committee; requiring district board of education to appoint certain committee upon hiring certain teacher; stating duties of certain committee; requiring State Department of Education to designate personnel to coordinate certain program; amending Section 25, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-202), which relates to the Teacher Competency Review Panel; modifying qualifications of applicants for certain licensure; requiring completion of teacher institute; allowing appeal of certain Panel decision to State Board of Education; authorizing competitive grants for certain teacher institutes; stating curricular requirements of certain institute; requiring Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to promulgate rules for certain program; prohibiting certain construction; 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 70 O.S. 1991, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 202, O.S.L. 1999 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an ~~Alternative Placement~~ alternative teaching ~~certificate~~ license to a ~~person~~ an individual who makes application to the State Board and meets all of the following criteria:

1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

2. Has completed a major in a field or equivalent coursework that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical certificate;

3. ~~Declares the intention to earn Standard Certification by means of the Alternative Placement Program in not more than three (3) years. For the purposes of the Alternative Placement Program only, the State Board of Education shall determine the subject matter of professional education component pursuant to this section, and the requirements for the Professional Education component required for Standard Certification shall be as follows:~~

a. ~~baccalaureate degree, and eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or~~

b. ~~postbaccalaureate degrees, teaching experience or subject matter work experience, or a combination of the three shall reduce the eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours by the following:~~

<del>Degree or Experience</del>	<del>Hour Reduction</del>
<del>Master's Degree</del>	<del>6 semester hours or 90 clock hours</del>
<del>Doctorate Degree</del>	<del>6 semester hours or 90 clock hours</del>
<del>1 year teaching or subject</del>	

~~matter work experience 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours  
2 years teaching or subject~~

~~matter work experience 6 semester hours or 90 clock hours  
3 years teaching or subject~~

~~matter work experience 9 semester hours or 135 clock hours  
4 years teaching or subject~~

~~matter work experience 12 semester hours or 180 clock hours,~~

~~c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours. Under no circumstance shall the number of hours be reduced to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours.~~

~~d. for purposes of this section:~~

~~(1) "teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a teacher in a public school, private school licensed or accredited by the State Board of Education, or institution of higher education,~~

~~(2) "Subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for Elementary Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or vocational-technical certificate.~~

~~Such requirements shall exclude all student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of this section;~~

4. Has passed the curriculum examination(s) subject area portion of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in the area of specialization for which certification is sought; and

5. ~~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 Placement Program approved by the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder of such certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.~~

~~B. Said certificate shall be renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited public school district in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of specialization and a document from a teacher education institution verifying satisfactory progress in the appropriate Alternative Placement Program.~~

~~C. Persons enrolled in an Alternative Placement Program shall:~~

~~1. Have 4. Has 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 and by the Oklahoma State Board of Education Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher education programs, nor have has enrolled in and subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of such program, ~~except those persons who hold a certificate;~~~~

~~2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within three (3) years;~~

~~3. Participate in the Entry-year Assistance Program, Section 6-152 et seq. of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as other Entry-year Assistance Program participants, except those persons who hold a certificate~~

~~5. Has never been convicted of a felony; and~~

~~4. Document 6. Has received a baccalaureate degree at least two (2) years of work experience which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area prior to applying for an alternative teaching license.~~ The State Board of Education may grant an exception to a person based on that person's ability to demonstrate specific competency in the subject area of specialization.

~~D. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be required of Alternative Placement Program participants for Standard Certification.~~

B. The license granted pursuant to subsection A of this section shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title. All years of teaching service as an alternatively licensed teacher shall count toward salary, fringe benefit adjustments, career status and retirement.

C. The State Board of Education shall administer an alternative teacher assistance program pursuant to Section 2 of this act to individuals granted an alternative teaching license pursuant to this section. Participation in the alternative teacher assistance program by an alternatively licensed teacher shall satisfy the requirement to participate in the residency program pursuant to Section 6-195 of this title.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education shall grant a standard teaching certificate to an individual who holds an alternative teaching license, who has been recommended by the alternative teacher assistance committee appointed pursuant to Section 2 of this act, after completion of not less than one (1) nor more than two (2) school years of teaching service, and completion of a teacher institute as provided in Section 4 of this act if funding is provided for such institute.

E. The State Board of Education shall ~~promulgate~~ adopt rules authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. Any such adjunct teachers shall be limited to ninety (90) clock hours per semester.

~~F. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding participation in the Alternative Placement Program.~~

~~G. The State Board of Education shall not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program of any institution of higher education in this state that has not made a commitment to, and begun implementation of, Alternative Placement Programs in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics, science and a foreign language, whereby individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this section are:~~

~~1. Admitted without further qualification; and~~

~~2. Offered the opportunity to complete the Standard~~

~~Certification course requirements set forth in subsection A of this section during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year of teaching under the Alternative Placement Program.~~

~~Provided, however, any person seeking Alternative Placement shall be permitted to take necessary courses during regular semesters if offered.~~

~~H. The criteria specified in subsection G of this section can be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more institutions of higher education~~

Individuals enrolled in the Alternative Placement Program on the effective date of this act shall be granted an alternative teaching license and/or a standard certificate if the individual meets the eligibility requirements pursuant to this act.

SECTION 2. 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 Department of Education shall administer an alternative teacher assistance program. Such program shall be developed in consultation with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and the district boards of education. Such program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Guidelines for alternatively licensed teacher positions in school districts;
2. Guidelines for the appointment and functions of the alternative teacher assistance committee;
3. Requirements and guidelines for selection and appointment of mentor teachers; and
4. An appropriate professional development program for an alternatively licensed teacher.

B. For purposes of this act, the alternative teacher assistance committee shall be composed of:

1. The principal or an assistant principal of the employing school or an administrator designated by the district board;
2. A mentor teacher;
3. A teacher who has received national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and is employed at the same site as the licensee if available; and
4. A staff representative of the State Department of Education designated for this purpose.

C. Upon hiring an alternatively licensed teacher a district board of education shall appoint an alternative teacher assistance committee who shall have the following duties:

1. Meet with the alternatively licensed teacher as may be required by the State Board of Education;

2. Work with the alternatively licensed teacher to assist in all matters concerning classroom management and professional development for that teacher;

3. Provide for meaningful parental, guardian or custodian input as one criterion in evaluating the alternatively licensed teacher's performance; and

4. Make recommendations to the State Board as to whether the alternatively licensed teacher should be issued a certificate upon completion of one (1) school year of teaching service, or whether such teacher shall be required to complete a second year as an alternatively licensed teacher. In the event a second year is required, the committee shall make specific recommendations for such teacher's professional development needs. The committee's recommendation to the Board after completion of the second year shall be either for certification or noncertification.

D. The State Department of Education shall designate personnel to coordinate the alternative teacher assistance program, monitor, evaluate and provide feedback to alternatively licensed teachers on a regular basis, and evaluate the program.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 25, Chapter 322, O.S.L. 1995 (70 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 6-202), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-202. A. Beginning ~~July 1, 1997~~ November 1, 2001, ~~there shall be created a~~ the "Teacher Competency Review Panel" ~~to~~ shall make recommendations to the State Board of Education for the licensure and certification of ~~people~~ applicants who have not graduated from an approved teacher education program in this state, ~~or~~ who have never held a standard teaching certificate in this state, ~~or~~ who are not currently certified to teach in another state, who are not pursuing licensure and certification pursuant to the provisions of Section 6-122.3 of this title, and who have outstanding career or academic accomplishments that qualify them for

teaching without fulfilling any other requirements except completion of the teaching institute as provided in Section 4 of this act. No person shall be certified to teach pursuant to the provisions of this section unless the person holds at least The minimum qualifications of an applicant shall include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education, ~~has successfully completed the required competency examination, and has been assessed by and received a favorable recommendation from the Teacher Competency Review Panel~~ and at least two (2) years of experience in the areas in which licensure and certification are sought.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, applicants for licensure and certification pursuant to this section shall not be required to complete any competency examinations. The Panel shall evaluate the applicant's qualifications, considering in particular the applicant's educational level and career accomplishments, and shall recommend to the State Board of Education whether the applicant should be licensed.

B. Applicants who are licensed pursuant to this section shall receive certification upon completion of one (1) school year of teaching and completion of a teacher institute as provided in Section 4 of this act, if funding is provided for such institute, and if the State Board of Education has no cause for denying certification.

C. Applicants for licensure or certification who are unsuccessful before the Panel may appeal to the State Board of Education.

D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules no later than September 30, 2001, setting out the procedures for operation of the Panel and appeal to the State Board.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require candidates pursuing licensure and certification pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title to receive favorable consideration by the

Panel; provided, further, that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an unsuccessful applicant before the Panel from pursuing licensure and certification pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of this title.

F. The members of the Teacher Competency Review Panel shall be selected by the State Board of Education from a list of candidates supplied by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. The Teacher Competency Review Panel shall consist of seven (7) members.

~~E.~~ G. The State Board of Education shall assess candidates seeking certification to teach through the recommendation of the Teacher Competency Review Panel fees for the service in an amount sufficient to fully fund the duties of the Teacher Competency Review Panel.

SECTION 4. 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:

Contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds designated for Teacher Institute Grants, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation is authorized to award one or more competitive grants to public school districts or public or private higher education institutions for the provision of teacher institutes. The teacher institutes shall offer a streamlined, concentrated curriculum, not exceeding one hundred twenty (120) hours, for inducting and orienting persons who are licensed to teach pursuant to the provisions of Section 6-122.3 or 6-202 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Completion of any competency examinations administered by the Commission shall not be part of the teacher institute curriculum or evaluation. The Commission shall promulgate rules implementing the provisions of this section.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

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.

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