STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE BILL HB1136 By: Greenwood

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; prohibiting schools from employing certain teachers; requiring middle level certification or endorsement for certain English, science and social studies teachers; providing procedure; providing for middle level endorsement for certain teachers in grade six; providing for teaching assignment at grade nine; setting specifications for certain professional development; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. 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 English, science or social studies in grades seven or eight, unless the teacher is licensed or certified to teach middle or secondary level English, science or social studies or has received middle level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section. A school district may employ a teacher without such a license, certificate, or endorsement until September 1, 2006, if the teacher became licensed or certified to teach prior to September 1, 2002.

B. Any teacher who became licensed or certified to teach prior to September 1, 2002, does not have middle or secondary level certification in English, science or social studies, and is serving in a school as an English, science or social studies teacher for grades seven or eight shall be required to obtain middle level

certification or middle level endorsement before September 1, 2006. For such teachers, middle level certification or middle level endorsement may be obtained as follows:

1. Middle level English, science or social studies certification – A teacher may obtain middle level certification by successfully completing the appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for middle level in the appropriate subject area administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. The teacher shall not be required to take the Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination for secondary students administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. A teacher granted middle level certification pursuant to this paragraph shall be entitled to teach the subject area of certification in grades seven and eight for high school graduation credit; and

2. Middle level endorsement – A teacher may obtain a middle level endorsement by successfully completing a professional development institute in middle level English, science or social studies developed and administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. Any professional development institute developed pursuant to this paragraph shall meet the criteria as established in subsection G of this section. A teacher granted middle level endorsement pursuant to this paragraph shall not be entitled to teach the subject area of endorsement for high school graduation credit.

C. Any teacher serving in a school as an English, science or social studies teacher for grade six may obtain middle level endorsement by successfully completing a professional development institute in the appropriate middle level subject area developed pursuant to this section. Such teacher shall be eligible to participate in a professional development institute in the appropriate middle level subject area developed and administered by

the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge.

D. Any teacher seeking middle level certification or middle level endorsement pursuant to subsection B of this section shall be eligible to take the Oklahoma Subject Area Test in middle level English, science or social studies one time free of charge after July 1, 2003, or participate in a professional development institute in the appropriate middle level subject area developed and administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation one time free of charge after July 1, 2003.

E. A teacher who is granted middle level certification in English, science or social studies, pursuant to subsection B of this section, may teach grade nine only if the teacher successfully completes the Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination for secondary students.

F. A teacher who is granted middle level endorsement pursuant to subsection B or C of this section may teach English, science or social studies courses as appropriate in grades seven or eight for high school credit only if the teacher has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) college credit semester hours of the appropriate subject area as specified by the State Department of Education.

G. Any teacher who became licensed or certified to teach prior to September 1, 2002, did not have middle or secondary level certification in English, science or social studies and successfully completed the appropriate Oklahoma Subject Area Test for the appropriate middle level subject area between July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2003, shall be granted a middle level certificate pursuant to subsection B of this section.

H. 1. Any professional development institute in middle level English, science or social studies developed pursuant to this section and administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall:

a. consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours,

b. be competency based,

c. emphasize effective learning practices,

d. require collaboration among participants, and

e. require each participant to prepare a work product which can be utilized in the classroom by the participant;

2. Any professional development institute in middle level English, science or social studies developed pursuant to this section and administered by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall be chosen through a competitive bid process, be reviewed by a professional development committee and other constituencies, and be subject to peer review. Invitations to bid for a professional development institute shall be open to any public or private entity.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

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.

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