STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2942 By: Dorman of the House

and

Paddack of the Senate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 6-185), which relates to the teacher preparation system; adding certain medical emergency competencies and training to the teacher preparation system; authorizing school districts to distribute information about meningococcal meningitis when distributing other health information; specifying type of information to be distributed; directing the State Department of Education to work with the State Department of Health to develop and distribute meningococcal meningitis information; providing for distribution of information in certain manner; stating legislative intent for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to establish a school nurse employment incentive program; stating criteria for the program; authorizing the Regents to make employment incentive payments; limiting amount of employment incentive payments; requiring execution of a contract; allowing the Regents to contract for administration of the program; providing for reduction of payments in certain circumstances; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the competency-based teacher

preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be limited to, the following competencies:

a. excellence in the arts and sciences,

b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be taught,

c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and potential in students,

d. an understanding of child and human development,

e. teaching skills developed through a variety of learning experiences,

f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,

g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians and custodians of students in the education process,

h. skills necessary to involve the community in education,

i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,

j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an effective leader of a school or school district, and

k. skills in effective classroom management ~~and~~, student discipline, and responding to medical emergencies;

2. The preservice program shall include the following methods to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this subsection:

a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the undergraduate level,

b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special

education to have subject area concentrations which allow qualification as a generalist,

c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality of students, the capacity of students to learn and the process of learning,

d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the education curriculum,

e. require teacher candidates to have training experiences and personal contact with parents, guardians or custodians of school-age children,

f. require teacher candidates to have community involvement experience,

g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities, ~~and~~

h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification and prevention, classroom management skills, and classroom safety and discipline techniques; and

i. require teacher candidates to receive training in the administration of first aid and techniques of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the Heimlich maneuver;

3. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree. Provided, any program approved by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require such hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which requires more than one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for a teacher education degree shall implement requirements for this program without additional hours.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such programs accountable for meeting the licensure and certification competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher education program shall develop an institution plan which follows the State Board of Education competencies for licensure and certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher education institution shall establish a process which seeks information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are appropriate, students within the teacher education program, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of students and business and community leaders. Each institution shall hold an annual public forum subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act regarding the content of the institution plan at which public comment on either the institution's teacher preparation plan or program is solicited. The institution's plan shall be accessible to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open Records Act. No institution of higher education's teacher education program shall be approved by the Commission unless the institution plan has been approved by that institution's governing board. Initial institution plans shall be filed with the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as required by the Commission thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may facilitate the development of institution plans to assist institutions of higher education.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.195 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. At the beginning of each school year, when the board of education of a school district provides information on immunizations, infectious disease, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students in grades six through twelve, the board shall include information about meningococcal meningitis. The information shall include at least the causes and symptoms of meningococcal meningitis, how it is spread, sources for additional information about meningococcal meningitis, and the availability, effectiveness, and risks of vaccinations against the disease.

B. The State Department of Education, in cooperation with the State Department of Health, shall develop and make available to school districts information that meets the requirements of subsection A of this section. The Department shall develop and make the information available in the most cost-effective and programmatically effective manner available, as determined by the Department, which shall at a minimum include posting the information on the Department web site.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education establish a school nurse employment incentive program for students enrolled in a major course of study in nursing at the undergraduate level or enrolled in a postsecondary career technology education program in nursing and who declare an intention to serve and who subsequently do serve this state by working as a full-time school nurse in a public school of this state for a

minimum of five (5) years. Students meeting the criteria provided in this section shall be given the opportunity to enter into participation in the program.

B. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are authorized to make employment incentive payments pursuant to the provisions of this section to persons who actually render a minimum of five (5) years of service as a full-time school nurse in the public schools of this state. The total amount of the employment incentive payments for any qualified person shall not exceed an amount equal to three times the average annual cost of undergraduate resident tuition and fees for full-time enrollment at institutions which offer nursing programs within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or an amount equal to three times the average amount of tuition for full-time enrollment in a postsecondary career technology education nursing program, as defined by the State Regents. Any amount not necessary to repay the balance of a student's loan(s) shall be paid directly to any person otherwise eligible for employment incentive payments pursuant to this section.

C. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall require the execution of appropriate contracts with eligible persons. Persons failing to comply with the requirements of this section shall not be eligible for the employment incentive payments provided for in this section. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, with approval of the State Regents, may contract with any other appropriate organization or unit of government for the administration of the provisions of this section.

D. If insufficient funds are available for employment incentive payments to qualified persons during any fiscal year, the Chancellor may make reductions in the payments made to those qualifying.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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