

and

Reynolds of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; allowing boards of education of school districts to employ persons licensed and certified pursuant to section; stating requirements for one-year internship; providing additional qualifications for one-year internship; requiring school districts to report internships to the State Board of Education; providing for evaluation of person upon completion of internship; clarifying application of certain laws; requiring the Board to review candidate submissions from school districts; directing the State Board of Education to issue a license to teach to persons who meet certain requirements; providing for issuance of a temporary license; specifying responsibility for cost of criminal history record; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 6-122.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The board of education of a school district may provide by written policy for the employment of persons as teachers who are licensed and certified by the state pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. The policy shall provide that a person meet the following requirements to qualify for a one-year internship:

1. Successful completion of the general education and the subject area portions of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of specialization for which certification is sought;

2. To teach primary grades, a bachelor's degree in liberal arts, English, history, mathematics, life science, earth science, child psychology, or a foreign language. The degree shall be from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; and

3. To teach secondary grades, a bachelor's degree in the subject area for which certification is sought. The degree shall be from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

C. The board of education of a school district shall report the award of an internship to a person under this section to the State Board of Education. Upon receipt of the report, the Board shall issue a license to the person which shall be valid during the internship.

D. Upon completion of the one-year internship, a school district board of education may present the individual to the State Board of Education for standard certification. The State Board of Education shall issue certification based on an evaluation of:

1. The academic knowledge of the person;
2. The results of the examinations required by subsection B of this section;
3. The ability of the person to communicate information effectively to pupils; and
4. The academic achievement of students taught by the person during the internship.

E. A person licensed pursuant to this section shall be considered a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-195 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The license and certificate issued pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes

of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Persons certified pursuant to this section shall be subject to all laws relating to teachers.

F. The State Board of Education shall review the candidate submissions from school districts every three (3) years to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of the individual school district internship programs.

SECTION 2. 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:

The State Board of Education shall issue a license to teach to any person who has attained certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence and has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. 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.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of March, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate