

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2540

By: Kern

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; allowing boards of education of school districts to employ person 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; 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 6-122.4 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. As an alternative to the requirements set forth in subsection B of this section, the policy shall also provide that a person may qualify for a one-year internship if the person has a bachelor's degree and has earned a national certification through passing rigorous examination of subject-area knowledge.

D. 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.

E. Upon completion of the one-year internship, a school district board of education shall 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 or C 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.

F. 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.

G. 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. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

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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