

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1837

By: Branan

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; directing State Board of Education to establish Troops to Teachers Incentive Program; stating purpose; providing definition; providing qualifications for licensure for participants of program; exempting program participants from certain portion of competency examination; authorizing State Board to identify comparable tests for certain purpose; requiring applicants to provide certain criminal history records; providing certain stipend to certain individuals; specifying requirements; 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. 1. The State Board of Education shall establish the Troops to Teachers Incentive Program for the purpose of attracting eligible members of the Armed Forces to the teaching profession and to facilitate certification and employment of such participants as teachers in public schools in this state.

2. For purposes of this section, the Troops to Teachers Program means the program administered by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) agency of the United States Department of Defense.

3. The State Board of Education shall issue a license to teach to any person who is eligible to participate in the Troops to Teachers Program and who:

- a. qualifies for licensure pursuant to Section 6-190 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- b. qualifies for licensure pursuant to Section 6-122.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or
- c. has attained certification by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.

Notwithstanding any other provision in law, an applicant for a teaching license pursuant to this section shall not be required to complete the general education portion of the competency examination.

4. The State Board may identify tests that are comparable to the competency examinations required pursuant to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for purposes of facilitating certification of Troops to Teachers participants who may not otherwise be physically present in this state to complete such examinations.

5. An applicant for a teaching license pursuant to this section must have 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.

B. The State Board of Education shall provide a one-time incentive stipend of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to any individual who is eligible for the Troops to Teachers Incentive Program, meets the requirements for licensure or certification pursuant to this section, and enters into a minimum one-school-year contract to teach at a public school in this state. To qualify for the stipend an individual shall not have served as a teacher in a public school in this state prior to the 2006-07 school year.

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.

50-2-2716

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