

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2634

6 By: Kern

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
9 Section 6-190, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter
10 185, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-190),
11 which relates to teacher licensure and certification;
12 exempting certain teachers with out-of-state
13 certification and certain experience from certain
14 examination requirements; uniting certification to
15 certain subject area; limiting teaching of person to
16 certain subject areas; and declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-190, as
19 last amended by Section 4, Chapter 185, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp.
20 2007, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school
22 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in
23 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified or licensed
24 to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the
25 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for
26 by Section 6-101 of this title and by other law.

1 B. The Board shall issue a license to teach to any person who:

2 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program
3 required by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and
4 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1,
5 1997;

6 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher
7 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

8 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the
9 Board;

10 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency
11 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

12 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination
13 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

14 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a
15 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State
16 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history
17 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma
18 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the
19 Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until
20 receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record.
21 The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost
22 of the criminal history records.

23 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person
24 who:

- 1 1. a. holds a license to teach in accordance with the
2 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act,
3 b. has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a
4 resident teacher,
5 c. has made the necessary application and paid the
6 certification fee as prescribed by the Board, and
7 d. has been recommended for certification by the
8 residency committee;

9 2. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets standards set by
10 the Board, subject to the provisions of subsection G of this
11 section; or

12 3. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional
13 Teaching Standards.

14 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial
15 Oklahoma certification who has not applied for and received an
16 Oklahoma teacher license shall have on file with the Board a current
17 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
18 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
19 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon
20 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue
21 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of
22 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
23 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
24 criminal history records.

1 E. If a resident teacher is a graduate of an out-of-state
2 institution of higher education, the recommendation of the residency
3 committee shall be made to the State Board of Education.

4 F. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
5 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
6 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
7 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
8 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

9 G. Any person holding a valid out-of-state certificate and who
10 has ten (10) or more years of out-of-state teaching experience in
11 the subject area in which they are certified shall not be required
12 to complete the subject area portions of the competency examination
13 required in Section 6-187 of this title to be issued a certificate
14 to teach in Oklahoma or to be considered a highly qualified teacher
15 for purposes of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001
16 (ESEA), P.L. No. 107-110, also known as the No Child Left Behind Act
17 of 2001. A certificate issued pursuant to this subsection shall be
18 in the same subject area in which the person was certified out-of-
19 state. A person who is granted a certificate pursuant to this
20 subsection shall teach only in the subject area of certification.

21 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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