

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Committee Substitute for
House Bill No. 1687

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1687 - By: NATIONS AND
COODY of the House and CORN of the Senate.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-182, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 280, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-182), which relates to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying definitions; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-195, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 434, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-195), which relates to the residency program; requiring the program to include certain training for the residency committee; deleting obsolete language; specifying duties of the residency committee; providing for additional release time for mentor teachers; updating statutory language; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, which relates to professional development institutes; deleting obsolete language; updating statutory language; directing the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to develop and offer professional development institutes for teacher induction and mentor training; specifying criteria for training; requiring the Commission to promulgate rules, develop a state plan, and issue an annual report; directing the Commission to select certain schools for piloting the initial phase of the training; specifying conditions for participation; giving priority to certain schools; making implementation contingent upon funding; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-182, as amended by
2 Section 1, Chapter 280, O.S.L. 2005 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-182), is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

5 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

6 2. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

7 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

8 4. "Licensed teacher" means any person who holds a valid license to teach, issued
9 by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of
10 the Board;

11 5. "Professional development program" means the program mandated by the
12 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous improvement and enrichment of
13 the certified and licensed teachers of this state;

14 6. "Teacher education professional development committee" means the committee
15 created in Section 6-186 of this title for the continuous improvement and enrichment of
16 higher education faculty in teacher education programs in institutions of higher
17 education;

18 7. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

19 8. "Residency committee" means a committee in a school district for the purpose of
20 reviewing the teaching performance of a resident teacher and making recommendations
21 to the Board and the preparing institution of higher education regarding certification of
22 the resident teacher. The residency committee shall also provide the resident teacher

1 support and assistance in all matters concerning classroom management and
2 professional development for that teacher. A residency committee shall consist of a
3 mentor teacher, the principal or an assistant principal of the employing school or an
4 administrator designated by the district board and a teacher educator in a college or
5 school of education of an institution of higher education, or an educator in a department
6 or school outside the institution's teacher education unit. ~~Provided that, if~~ If available,
7 qualified mentor teachers shall have expertise in the teaching field of the resident
8 teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of the residency committee shall
9 have expertise and experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in
10 all cases, at least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and
11 experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher. Beginning with the 2009-2010
12 school year, each member of the residency committee shall participate in a mentor
13 teacher professional development institute offered by the Oklahoma Commission for
14 Teacher Preparation as provided for in Section 6-200 of this title;

15 9. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-116 of this title;

16 10. "Resident teacher" means any licensed teacher who is employed in an
17 accredited school to serve as a teacher under the guidance and assistance of a mentor
18 teacher and residency committee. The resident teacher shall have completed the
19 program of the college or school of education of the accredited institution of higher
20 education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have successfully
21 completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which the resident
22 teacher seeks certification;

1 11. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a certificate by the
2 Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act and the rules of the
3 Board;

4 12. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher holding a standard certificate who is
5 employed in a school district to serve as a teacher and who has been appointed to provide
6 guidance and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school district. A mentor
7 teacher shall be a classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2) years of classroom
8 teaching experience as a certified teacher.

9 A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list of qualified teacher
10 volunteers who have submitted their names for that purpose. After compilation of the
11 list, the principal shall provide opportunity for input from the bargaining agent, where
12 one exists. Membership or nonmembership in a professional teacher organization shall
13 not be considered as a factor in selecting a mentor teacher. No teacher may serve as a
14 mentor teacher for more than one resident teacher at a time. Beginning with the 2009-
15 2010 school year, a mentor teacher shall participate in a mentor teacher professional
16 development institute and ongoing professional development offered by the Oklahoma
17 Commission for Teacher Preparation as provided for in Section 6-200 of this title. When
18 possible, a mentor teacher shall ~~have successfully completed a mentor teacher~~
19 ~~professional development institute and~~ be assigned to the same school site and have
20 similar certification as the resident teacher;

1 13. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is employed in a teaching
2 capacity in an institution of higher education, approved or accredited by the Commission
3 for the preparation of education personnel; and

4 14. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in the Oklahoma
5 Teacher Preparation Act for licensure and certification as a teacher and shall consist of
6 tests over general education, professional education and subject areas as defined by the
7 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-195, as amended by
9 Section 11, Chapter 434, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2006, Section 6-195), is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Section 6-195. A. The State Department of Education shall administer a residency
12 program which shall be approved by the State Board of Education. ~~Such~~ The program
13 shall be developed in consultation with the teacher education institutions, the Oklahoma
14 Commission for Teacher Preparation and the district boards of education. ~~Such~~ The
15 program shall include, but not be limited to:

- 16 1. Guidelines and assignments for resident teacher positions in the school districts;
17 2. Requirements and guidelines for selection and appointment of mentor teachers
18 which must include any requirements specified in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
19 Act;
20 3. Guidelines for the appointment and functions of a residency committee; ~~and~~

1 4. Participation in a mentor teacher professional development institute for the
2 residency committee and ongoing professional development for the mentor teacher
3 assigned to a residency committee; and

4 5. An appropriate professional development program for the resident teacher.

5 B. Except as otherwise provided in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, no
6 person shall be certified to teach in the accredited schools of this state, unless ~~such~~ the
7 person:

8 1. Has completed at least one (1) school year of teaching service as a resident
9 teacher in the residency program as provided in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act;

10 2. Has been recommended for certification by the appointed residency committee
11 after completion of not less than one (1) or more than two (2) school years of resident
12 teaching service; and

13 3. Has successfully completed the ~~curriculum examination as prescribed by the~~
14 ~~Board prior to July 1, 1997, and the~~ competency examination as prescribed by the
15 Commission ~~beginning July 1, 1997.~~

16 C. Any person who has been issued a license to teach by the Board may be
17 employed as a resident teacher by an accredited school upon appointment by the district
18 board of education or by a private or public provider of early childhood education
19 programs as authorized in Section 11-103.7 of this title.

20 D. Upon placement of a licensed teacher in a resident teacher position at a public
21 school, the district board of education shall appoint the residency committee members, as
22 prescribed in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, ~~who~~. A residency committee shall

1 meet with the resident teacher during the first year, and in the case of resident teachers
2 required to serve an additional year during the second year, for the purpose of reviewing
3 the teaching performance of the resident teacher and making recommendations to the
4 Board and the higher education institution regarding certification. In addition the
5 mentor teacher and administrator assigned to a residency committee shall meet with the
6 resident teacher for at least an additional year for the purpose of providing ongoing
7 support and professional assistance to the resident teacher. The residency committee
8 shall have the following duties:

9 1. Meet with the resident teacher as may be required by the Board. The mentor
10 teacher may be granted at least an additional release period during the school day to
11 meet and work with the resident teacher;

12 2. Work with the resident teacher to assist in all matters concerning classroom
13 management and professional development for that teacher;

14 3. Provide for meaningful parental, guardian or custodian input as one criterion in
15 evaluating the ~~resident teacher's performance~~ of the resident teacher; ~~and~~

16 4. Upon completion of one (1) school year of residency, make recommendations to
17 the Board and the preparing institution of higher education as to whether the resident
18 teacher should be issued a certificate or whether ~~such~~ the resident teacher shall be
19 required to serve as a resident teacher for one (1) additional school year. In the event a
20 resident teacher serves a second year, the recommendation of the residency committee to
21 the Board and the institution of higher education after the second year shall be for either
22 certification or noncertification.

1 Upon recommendation from the residency committee for noncertification or an
2 additional year in the residency program, ~~such~~ the residency committee shall, upon
3 request of the resident teacher, supply a list to the resident teacher of the reasons for
4 ~~such~~ the recommendation. The list of reasons shall remain confidential, except as
5 otherwise provided by the resident teacher.

6 In the event a resident teacher is required to serve an additional year in the
7 residency program, the resident teacher shall not be required to be under the supervision
8 of the same residency committee, or any member of the committee, which supervised the
9 resident teacher during the initial year in the program; and

10 5. In the event the committee recommendation to the Board and the institution of
11 higher education is for certification, a residency committee shall also recommend a
12 professional development program for the resident teacher, designed to strengthen the
13 ~~resident teacher's~~ teaching skills of the resident teacher in any area identified by the
14 committee.

15 All resident years shall count toward salary, fringe benefit adjustments, career
16 status and retirement.

17 E. Upon employment of a licensed teacher in a resident teacher position by a
18 private or public provider of early childhood education programs pursuant to a contract
19 as authorized in Section 11-103.7 of this title, the district board of education shall
20 appoint the residency committee members, as prescribed in the Oklahoma Teacher
21 Preparation Act. The residency committee members shall have the same duties as
22 prescribed in subsection D of this section.

1 F. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring more than one (1) year of
2 employment at the resident level before a standard certificate can be issued to a resident
3 teacher.

4 The professional development program shall commence with the residency year and
5 shall require continuing education throughout the career of a teacher.

6 ~~G. For the 2003-04 school year, if the district board of education is unable to find a~~
7 ~~teacher willing to serve as a mentor teacher, the district may leave the position of mentor~~
8 ~~teacher on the residency committee unfilled. If the district leaves the position unfilled,~~
9 ~~the remaining members of the residency committee may carry out the duties of the~~
10 ~~committee.~~

11 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-200, is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 Section 6-200. A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission
14 for Teacher Preparation shall have authority to develop and administer training for
15 residency committees and training for professional development through professional
16 development institutes. Included in the professional development institutes training
17 shall be technology training. Professional development institutes shall be accepted by
18 the State Board of Education for professional development purposes and shall be defined
19 as continuing education experiences which consist of a minimum of thirty (30) clock
20 hours. The institutes shall be competency-based, emphasize effective learning practices,
21 require collaboration among participants, and require each participant to prepare a work
22 product which can be utilized in the classroom by the participant. Any state professional

1 development institutes administered by the Commission shall be chosen through a
2 competitive bid process and if funds are available subject to peer review. The
3 Commission, prior to offering any professional development institute, shall promulgate
4 rules related to administering state professional development institutes.

5 B. ~~With the funds appropriated in House Bill No. 1872 of the 1st Session of the~~
6 ~~46th Oklahoma Legislature specifically for the purpose of funding professional~~
7 ~~development institutes in intensive elementary reading, the~~ The Oklahoma Commission
8 for Teacher Preparation shall develop, offer and administer professional development
9 institutes to train elementary school teachers in reading education. The funds shall be
10 used for the cost of developing, administering and contracting for the professional
11 development institutes. When possible, certified reading specialists shall be included as
12 consultants. All costs of the institutes shall be included in the contract price and no
13 tuition or registration fee shall be collected from teachers attending the institutes. The
14 institutes shall be offered by or through the Commission. Working in conjunction with
15 the State Department of Education, the Commission shall develop a state plan for
16 administration of such institutes and shall report to the Governor and the Legislature on
17 the format of and participation in the institutes. The State Department of Education
18 shall cooperate with and provide any information requested to the Oklahoma
19 Commission for Teacher Preparation as is necessary to carry out the provisions of this
20 subsection.

21 C. As additional funds become available ~~for such purpose~~, the Commission shall
22 develop and offer professional development institutes in ~~mathematics~~:

- 1 1. Mathematics for teachers in grades five through nine, ~~the~~;
- 2 2. The use of technology in the classroom, ~~training~~;
- 3 3. Training of residency committee members in teacher mentoring ~~and in hands-on~~;
- 4 and
- 5 4. Hands-on, inquiry-based science for elementary teachers.

6 C. D. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
7 Preparation shall:

8 1. Provide five-day initial reading professional development institutes in
9 elementary school reading for elementary school teachers and instructional leaders;

10 2. Make available ~~in Fiscal Year 1999~~, a three-day follow-up professional
11 development institute for teachers who participated in ~~an elementary school~~ the initial
12 reading professional development institute ~~during Fiscal Year 1998~~;

13 ~~2. Provide five-day initial professional development institutes in elementary school~~
14 ~~reading for elementary school teachers and instructional leaders;~~

15 3. Contract for an independent evaluation of the elementary school reading
16 professional development institute; and

17 4. Provide continued support of the elementary school reading professional
18 development institutes through ongoing teacher development at individual school sites.

19 Funds may be used for the cost of mentor training, payment for substitute teachers, on-
20 site facilitation, and any other costs necessary to ensure improved reading by students.

21 E. 1. Beginning July 1, 2007, the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
22 shall develop and offer professional development institutes that implement a research-

1 based two-year teacher induction and mentoring program. The institutes shall provide
2 rigorous training to residency committee members, including the mentor teacher,
3 administrator, and higher education representative, in comprehensive measures to
4 support new teachers. The institutes shall be a two-phase program, providing training to
5 all members of the residency committee during the first phase and providing ongoing
6 training and continued participation in the program by the mentor teacher and the
7 resident teacher during the second phase. The Commission shall promulgate rules
8 related to implementing and administering the teacher induction and mentor training
9 system. The Commission shall develop a state plan for administration of the institutes
10 and shall annually report to the Governor and Legislature on participation in and results
11 of the institutes.

12 2. During the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years the Commission shall select
13 schools to pilot the initial phase of the teacher induction and mentor training program.
14 The number of schools selected to participate in the pilot program shall be dependent on
15 the amount of funding. The schools selected shall represent rural, suburban, and urban
16 areas of the state. The Commission shall implement the program in at least one
17 elementary school, one middle school and one high school. To be eligible to participate
18 the administrator of the school shall ensure that all members of each residency
19 committee in the school will participate in all phases of the training. Priority shall be
20 given to schools that are considered hard to staff or are located in high poverty areas.

21 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the
22 Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

1 Implementation of the provisions of this act shall be contingent upon the
2 appropriation of funding designated for such purpose.

3 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2007.

4 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
5 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof
6 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 03-05-07 - DO
8 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.