

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Committee Substitute for
ENGROSSED
Senate Bill No. 2101

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2101 - By:
JOLLEY of the Senate and DENNEY AND SHUMATE of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, which relates to alternative placement teaching certificate; clarifying statutory language; requiring certain minimum grade point average; deleting authorization for reduction of certain education component; directing the State Board of Education to establish certain core minimum education component; increasing certain minimum professional education component; deleting certain definitions; updating statutory language; updating certain entity responsible for certain duties; modifying eligibility requirements for an alternative placement program; directing the State Board of Education to issue a license to teach to persons in the Teach for America Program; providing exemption from residency program; requiring certain coursework; directing the Board to issue certificate to teachers who meet certain requirements; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-187), which relates to competency examinations; specifying requirements for certification in content areas; allowing certain teachers to take subject area examinations upon the request of a Superintendent; requiring completion of certain programs for certification in certain areas; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, is amended to
2 read as follows:

1 Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an ~~Alternative~~
2 ~~Replacement~~ alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes
3 application to the State Board and meets all of the following criteria:

4 1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is
5 recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a
6 cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;

7 2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for
8 an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical
9 certificate;

10 3. Declares the intention to earn ~~Standard Certification~~ standard certification by
11 means of ~~the Alternative Placement Program~~ an alternative placement program in not
12 more than three (3) years. ~~For the purposes of the Alternative Placement Program only,~~
13 ~~the~~ The State Board of Education shall determine the subject matter of the professional
14 education component ~~pursuant to this section, and the requirements~~ of an alternative
15 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required for the Professional
16 Education professional education component required of an alternative placement
17 program needed to qualify for ~~Standard Certification~~ standard certification shall be as
18 follows:

- 19 a. baccalaureate degree, ~~and~~ eighteen (18) semester hours or two
20 hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
21 b. postbaccalaureate ~~degrees~~ degree, ~~teaching experience or subject~~
22 ~~matter work experience, or a combination of the three shall reduce the~~

1 ~~eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours~~
2 ~~by the following:~~

Degree or Experience	Hour Reduction
Master's Degree	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
Doctorate Degree	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
1 year teaching or subject matter work experience	3 semester hours or 45 clock hours
2 years teaching or subject matter work experience	6 semester hours or 90 clock hours
3 years teaching or subject matter work experience	9 semester hours or 135 clock hours
4 years teaching or subject matter work experience	twelve (12) semester hours

20 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours₇

- 21 c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6)
22 semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for the professional

1 ~~education component. Under no circumstance shall the number of~~
2 ~~hours be reduced to less than six (6) semester hours or ninety (90)~~
3 ~~clock hours.~~

4 d. for purposes of this section:

5 (1) "teaching experience" shall mean full-time employment as a
6 teacher in a public school, private school licensed or accredited
7 by the State Board of Education, or institution of higher
8 education,

9 (2) "subject matter work experience" shall mean work experience in
10 a field that corresponds to the area of specialization for
11 Elementary-Secondary Certificate, Secondary Certificate or
12 vocational-technical certificate.

13 ~~Such~~ The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all student
14 teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection E of this section;

15 4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions of the competency
16 examination required in Section 6-187 of this title in the area of specialization for which
17 certification is sought; and

18 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school district in this state
19 offering employment in the area of specialization for which certification is sought on
20 condition that the person enroll in an Alternative Placement Program alternative
21 placement program approved by the State Board of Education or declares the intention to
22 seek employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in this state. The

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 certificate granted pursuant to this subsection shall be considered a "valid certificate of
2 qualification" for the purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder of
3 ~~such~~ the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-
4 195 of this title.

5 B. ~~Said~~ An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be renewed for not more
6 than a maximum of three (3) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited
7 public school district in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
8 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution verifying satisfactory
9 progress in the ~~an~~ appropriate ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement
10 program.

11 C. Persons enrolled in an ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement
12 program shall:

13 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education program approved by
14 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the North Central Association of
15 Colleges and Schools and by the Oklahoma ~~State Board of Education~~ Commission for
16 Teacher Preparation to offer teacher education programs, nor have enrolled in and
17 subsequently failed courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
18 ~~such~~ the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

19 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an Oklahoma institution of
20 higher education a plan for meeting standard certification requirements within three (3)
21 years;

1 3. Participate in the ~~Entry-year Assistance~~ Residency Program, established in
2 Section ~~6-152 et seq.~~ 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
3 other ~~Entry-year Assistance Program participants~~ resident teachers, except those
4 persons who hold a certificate; and

5 4. Document at least ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years of work experience after completion of
6 the baccalaureate degree which is related to the subject area of specialization if the
7 person has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area.

8 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the requirements for
9 licensure and certification and, upon demonstration by an individual of specific
10 competency in the subject area of specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the
11 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant ~~such~~
12 exceptions.

13 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be
14 required of ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement program participants
15 for ~~Standard Certification~~ standard certification.

16 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules authorizing adjunct
17 teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Adjunct
18 teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. ~~Any such adjunct~~ Adjunct
19 teachers shall be limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per semester.

20 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an
21 annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding

1 participation in the ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ alternative placement programs
2 offered by the institution.

3 H. The ~~State Board of Education~~ Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation
4 shall not accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education
5 program of any institution of higher education in this state that has not ~~made a~~
6 ~~commitment to, and begun implementation of, Alternative Placement Programs~~
7 implemented alternative placement programs in at least four areas of specialization,
8 including mathematics, science and a foreign language, ~~whereby.~~ Each institution shall
9 allow individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this section ~~are to be:~~

10 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further qualification; and

11 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the ~~Standard Certification course~~
12 requirements for standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section during the
13 summer preceding and the summer following the first year of teaching ~~under the~~
14 ~~Alternative Placement Program~~ with an alternative placement teaching certificate.

15 ~~Provided, however, any~~ Any person seeking ~~Alternative Placement~~ standard certification
16 through an alternative placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
17 during regular semesters if offered.

18 I. The criteria specified in subsection H of this section can be met through a
19 cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more institutions of higher education.

20 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma
21 Statutes as Section 6-122.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in
22 numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. The State Board of Education shall issue a two-year, nonrenewable license to
2 teach to any person who has been accepted into the Teach for America Program and has
3 on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma
4 State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
5 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the
6 Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary license which shall
7 be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The
8 person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history
9 records.

10 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
11 Statutes, teachers issued a license pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the
12 requirements of the residency program, but shall complete the coursework requirements
13 established for participants of the Teach for America Program. Upon successful
14 completion of the coursework, the teacher shall be issued a certificate to teach by the
15 State Board of Education after completion of the application and payment of the
16 certification fee as prescribed by the Board.

17 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as amended by
18 Section 2, Chapter 236, O.S.L. 2002 (70 O.S. Supp. 2007, Section 6-187), is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma
21 Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general education, professional education
22 and various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic

1 achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area the
2 person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which shall also include licensure or
3 certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

4 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section, shall promulgate
5 rules and procedures to guarantee the confidentiality of examinations.

6 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until successfully completing
7 the competency examination except those candidates who make application to the State
8 Board and meet the criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
9 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of approval in which the
10 licensed or certified teacher has successfully completed the examination. ~~Testing Subject~~
11 to the provisions of subsection C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in
12 which a teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment or an
13 endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject area test.

14 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education, professional
15 education or subject area portions of the examination subject to any limit imposed by the
16 Commission.

17 C. ~~A teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the necessary~~
18 ~~requirements provided by law and has successfully completed the subject area portion of~~
19 ~~the examination~~ Except as herein provided, for the purpose of either obtaining initial
20 licensure or adding an additional subject matter to an existing license or certificate, a
21 teacher may be certified only in the content areas in which the teacher meets the
22 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully completed the subject area

1 portion of the examination which corresponds to a degree in the content area held by the
2 teacher. Except for certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education, a
3 teacher may be allowed to take a subject area examination in a content area in which the
4 teacher does not hold a degree upon the request of the Superintendent of a school district
5 in which the teacher is employed or has been offered employment. Certification in early
6 childhood, elementary, or special education shall require completion of an appropriate
7 teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
8 Preparation.

9 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at least four times per
10 calendar year on dates to be established by the Commission.

11 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall restrict the right of the
12 State Board of Education to issue an emergency or provisional certificate, as needed.
13 Provided, however, prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the ~~local~~ district
14 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a provisional or
15 standard certificate or who is licensed in the teaching profession. In the event a district
16 is unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document efforts to
17 employ an individual with a provisional or standard certificate or with a license in
18 another curricular area with academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
19 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an individual
20 meeting minimum standards as established by the State Board of Education for the
21 issuance of emergency certificates.

22 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.

1 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 04-14-08 - DO
2 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.