

SB 2101

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THE STATE SENATE
Monday, February 25, 2008

Senate Bill No. 2101
As Amended

SENATE BILL NO. 2101 - By: JOLLEY of the Senate and DENNEY of the House.

[schools - alternative certification - summer teaching
institute - codification - effective date -
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. By June 1, 2009, the State Board of Education in collaboration with one or more institutions of higher education in this state shall develop an integrative program to streamline the licensure process for alternative teacher certification. Such program will allow candidates to participate in an intensive summer teaching institute that will prepare candidates for success as teachers in the classroom. In its implementation of this section the State Board of Education shall seek to partner with an organization that has more than fifteen (15) years of experience in recruiting and training a diverse, highly selective corps of top recent college graduates and professionals who commit two (2) years to teach in low-income communities across the nation.

1 B. The summer teaching institute developed by the Board
2 pursuant to this section shall apply toward the semester hours or
3 clock hours as required by paragraph 3 of subsection A of Section 6-
4 122.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Board shall
5 determine the equivalent amount of hours provided by the institute
6 that will apply toward the required hours. Candidates for
7 alternative certification shall continue to be subject to the
8 requirements set forth in Section 6-122.3 of Title 70 of the
9 Oklahoma Statutes, except as provided for in this subsection.

10 C. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
11 the provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.5 of Title 70, unless
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. The State Board of Education shall issue a one-year,
16 nonrenewable secondary or middle level license to teach to any
17 person who has attained certification by an alternative teacher
18 certification organization as set forth in subsection C of this
19 section and has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal
20 history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as
21 well as a national criminal history record check as defined in
22 Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of
23 the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a

1 temporary license which shall be effective until receipt of the
2 national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person
3 applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost of the
4 criminal history records.

5 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 6-195 of Title 70
6 of the Oklahoma Statutes, teachers issued a license pursuant to this
7 section shall not be subject to the requirements of the residency
8 program, but shall participate in the mentoring program provided by
9 the alternative teacher certification organization as set forth in
10 subsection C of this section. Upon successful completion of such
11 mentoring program, the teacher shall be issued a certificate to
12 teach by the State Board of Education after completion of the
13 application and payment of the certification fee as prescribed by
14 the State Board of Education.

15 C. For purposes of this section, the State Board of Education
16 shall identify an alternative teacher certification organization
17 that was founded with grant funding from the United States
18 Department of Education and developed a passport to teaching
19 program, which is a certification program designed for professionals
20 who want to change careers and teach. The program requires
21 candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a professional teaching
22 knowledge exam, pass a subject area exam, and pass a background
23 check. The organization provides candidates with access to

1 workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor, and optional access to
2 comprehensive subject matter refresher courses. The organization
3 also provides an intensive mentoring and induction program.

4 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
5 the provisions of this section.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

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

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-20-08 - DO
12 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.