

BILL SUMMARY

MEASURE: SB 2101

AUTHOR: Denney

SUBJECT: Schools - Alternative certification and Teach for America

PROVISIONS: Section 1: AMENDATORY. The committee sub for SB 2101 modifies criteria for being eligible for the alternative placement teaching certificate by also requiring applicants to have minimum grade point average of 2.5. Deletes provisions regarding the number of hours required for the professional education component by an applicant who has a post-baccalaureate degree. Directs the State Board of Education to establish a minimum of 6 semester hours or 90 clock hours for the professional education component. Also, transfers the accrediting and certification responsibility for alternative teacher placement programs from the State Board of Education to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

Section 2: NEW LAW. Directs the State Board of Education to issue a two-year nonrenewable license to teachers who have completed coursework requirements to teach to any person who has been accepted into the Teach for America Program and has on file a current state and federal criminal history record.

Section 3: NEW LAW. Authorizes the State Board of Education to issue a one-year, nonrenewable secondary or middle level teaching license to any person that has attained certification by an alternative teacher certification organization. Teachers issued a license will not be subject to the requirements of the residency program, but must participate in the mentoring program provided by the alternative teacher certification organization. Directs the State Board of Education to identify an alternative teacher certification organization that meets certain criteria.

Section 4: AMENDATORY. Requires completion of an appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education.

EFFECTIVE

DATE: July 1, 2008

PREPARED BY: Michael Hirlinger

DATE: 3/28/08