

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 582

By: Jolley of the Senate

and

Jones and Fields of the
House

An Act relating to schools; directing State Board of Education to grant alternative placement teaching certificate to any person who meets certain requirements; directing State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; directing Board to issue license to teach to persons who meet certain requirements; providing exemption from residency program; requiring participation in certain mentoring program; directing Board to issue certificate to teachers who meet certain requirements; directing Board to identify an organization that meets certain criteria; and providing for codification.

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 6-122.5 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall grant an Alternative Placement teaching certificate to any person:

1. Who meets the eligibility requirements for the Troops to Teachers program operated by the United States Department of Defense and managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES); and

2. Who meets the requirements set forth in Section 6-122.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.6 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall issue a one-year, nonrenewable secondary or middle level license to teach to any person who has attained certification by an alternative teacher certification organization as set forth in subsection C of this section and has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

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

C. For purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall identify an alternative teacher certification organization that was founded with grant funding from the United States Department of Education and that developed the Passport to Teaching program, which is a certification program designed for professionals who want to change careers and become teachers. The program shall

require candidates to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a professional teaching knowledge exam, pass a subject area exam, and pass a background check. The organization shall provide candidates with access to workshops, an experienced teacher-advisor, and optional access to comprehensive subject matter refresher courses. The organization shall also provide an intensive mentoring and induction program.

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

Passed the Senate the 25th day of February, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives