

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, February 18, 2010

Committee Substitute for  
House Bill No. 3259

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 3259 - By: BLACKWELL of the House.

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-122.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6-122.3), which relates to the alternative placement teaching certificate; clarifying statutory language; modifying certain alternative placement program requirements; 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 6-122.3, as amended by  
2 Section 1, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6-122.3), is amended to  
3 read as follows:
- 4 Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an alternative  
5 placement teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the State Board and  
6 meets all of the following criteria:
- 7 1. Holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution whose accreditation is  
8 recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has attained a  
9 cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale;
- 10 2. Has completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for  
11 an Elementary-Secondary Certificate, a Secondary Certificate or a vocational-technical  
12 certificate;

1           3. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by means of an alternative  
2 placement program in not more than three (3) years. The State Board of Education shall  
3 determine the subject matter of the professional education component of an alternative  
4 placement program. The number of clock or semester hours required for the professional  
5 education component of an alternative placement program needed to qualify for standard  
6 certification shall be as follows:

7           a.     baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred  
8                    seventy (270) clock hours, or

9           b.     postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours or one hundred  
10                   eighty (180) clock hours.

11          c.     the State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6)  
12                   semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours for the professional  
13                   education component.

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

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

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

1 accredited public school district in this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this  
2 subsection shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the purposes of  
3 Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder of the certificate shall be considered  
4 a resident teacher for the purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

5 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be renewed for not more than  
6 a maximum of three (3) years upon presentation of a document from an accredited public  
7 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 an appropriate alternative placement program.

10 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

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

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

20 3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section 6-195 of this title  
21 and have the same duties and responsibilities as other resident teachers, except those  
22 persons who hold a certificate; and

1           4. Except for persons participating in the federal Troops To Teachers Program,  
2 document at least ~~three (3)~~ two (2) years of work experience ~~after completion of the~~  
3 ~~baccalaureate degree~~ which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person  
4 has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a related area.

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

10          E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience shall not be  
11 required of alternative placement program participants for standard certification.

12          F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules authorizing adjunct  
13 teachers who shall be persons with distinguished qualifications in their field. Adjunct  
14 teachers shall not be required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be  
15 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per semester.

16          G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office of Accountability an  
17 annual report of information specified by the Office of Accountability regarding  
18 participation in the alternative placement programs offered by the Institution.

19          H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not accredit, renew  
20 the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any teacher education program of any  
21 institution of higher education in this state that has not implemented alternative  
22 placement programs in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,

1 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow individuals who meet the  
2 criteria of subsections A and C of this section to be:

- 3 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further qualification; and
- 4 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for standard certification  
5 set forth in subsection A of this section during the summer preceding and the summer  
6 following the first year of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.  
7 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative placement program  
8 shall be permitted to take necessary courses during regular semesters if offered.

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

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2010.

12 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
13 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof  
14 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-17-10  
16 - DO PASS, As Amended.