

EHB 3259

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THE STATE SENATE
Wednesday, March 31, 2010

ENGROSSED

House Bill No. 3259

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 3259 - By: Blackwell of the House and Marlatt of the Senate.

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:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 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), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

- 12 a. baccalaureate degree, eighteen (18) semester hours or
13 two hundred seventy (270) clock hours, or
- 14 b. postbaccalaureate degree, twelve (12) semester hours
15 or one hundred eighty (180) clock hours.
- 16 c. the State Board of Education shall establish a core
17 minimum of six (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock
18 hours for the professional education component.

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

22 4. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
23 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this

1 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
2 sought; and

3 5. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
4 district in this state offering employment in the area of
5 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
6 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
7 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
8 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
9 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
10 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
11 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
12 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the
13 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

14 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
15 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
16 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
17 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
18 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
19 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
20 placement program.

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

22 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
23 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,

1 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
2 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
3 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
4 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
5 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

9 3. Participate in the Residency Program, established in Section
10 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
11 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a
12 certificate; and

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

19 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
20 requirements for licensure and certification and, upon demonstration
21 by an individual of specific competency in the subject area of
22 specialization, may grant a license or certificate to the

1 individual. The State Board may establish other requirements
2 necessary to grant exceptions.

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

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

12 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the Office
13 of Accountability an annual report of information specified by the
14 Office of Accountability regarding participation in the alternative
15 placement programs offered by the Institution.

16 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
17 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
18 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
19 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
20 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
21 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
22 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
23 section to be:

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

3 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
4 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
5 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
6 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate.
7 Any person seeking standard certification through an alternative
8 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
9 during regular semesters if offered.

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

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

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

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 3-29-10 - DO
19 PASS.