

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE BILL 2980

By: McPeak

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 6-187, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter
9 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6-187),
which relates to competency examination; clarifying
language; and providing an effective date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as
14 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 82, O.S.L. 2009 (70 O.S. Supp.
15 2009, Section 6-187) is amended to read as follow:

16 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by
17 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general
18 education, professional education and various subject areas and
19 grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
20 competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area
21 the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which
22 shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator,
23 as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

1 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
2 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
3 confidentiality of examinations.

4 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until
5 successfully completing the competency examination except those
6 candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the
7 criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
8 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of
9 approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully
10 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
11 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
12 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
13 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
14 area test.

15 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
16 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
17 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

18 C. Except as herein provided, a teacher may be certified in as
19 many areas as the teacher meets the necessary requirements provided
20 by law and has successfully completed the subject area portion of
21 the examination. Certification in early childhood, elementary, or
22 special education shall require completion of an appropriate teacher
23 education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
24 Preparation.

1 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
2 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
3 Commission.

4 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
5 restrict the right of the State Board of ~~Education~~ to issue an
6 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
7 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
8 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
9 provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the
10 teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an
11 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
12 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
13 certificate or with a license in another curricular area with
14 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
15 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to
16 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
17 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

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