

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1274

By: Virgin and Cannaday of the
House

3 and

4 Stanislawski of the Senate
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8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
9 Section 6-187, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter
10 61, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 6-187),
11 which relates to the Oklahoma teacher preparation
12 system; removing certain date restrictions; allowing
13 certain teachers to become certified in certain
14 areas, subject to certain requirements; allowing
15 teachers certified through accredited program to be
16 certified in special education, subject to certain
17 requirements; providing an effective date; and
18 declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-187, as
21 last amended by Section 4, Chapter 61, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp.
22 2010, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by
24 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general
education, professional education and various subject areas and
grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area

1 the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which
2 shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator,
3 as prescribed by the State Board of Education.

4 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
5 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
6 confidentiality of examinations.

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

18 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
19 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
20 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

21 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
22 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
23 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
24 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

1 Certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
2 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
3 approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

4 2. Any teacher who ~~became~~ is certified to teach elementary
5 education ~~prior to July 1, 2010,~~ may be certified in early childhood
6 education upon meeting the requirements provided in law and
7 successful completion of the appropriate subject area portion of the
8 examination by July 1, 2012. Any teacher who ~~became~~ is certified to
9 teach early childhood education ~~prior to July 1, 2010,~~ may be
10 certified in elementary education upon meeting the requirements
11 provided in law and successful completion of the appropriate subject
12 area portion of the examination by July 1, 2012. Any special
13 education teacher who becomes certified to teach through completion
14 of an accredited teacher preparation program may be certified in
15 early childhood or elementary education upon meeting the
16 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
17 appropriate subject portion of the examination prior to July 1,
18 2012. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through completion
19 of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
20 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
21 program ~~prior to July 1, 2010,~~ may be certified in special education
22 upon meeting the requirements provided in law and successful
23 completion of the appropriate subject area portion of the
24 examination by July 1, 2012.

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 July 1, 2011.

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

1 Passed the House of Representatives the 1st day of March, 2011.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

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6 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2011.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate