

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 20, 2012

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 2285

By: Virgin, Kern and Walker of
the House

5 and

6 Stanislawski of the Senate

7
8 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
9 Section 6-187, which relates to teacher competency
10 examinations; extending dates in which certain
11 teachers may complete certain examinations as a
requirement to become certified in certain areas;
providing an effective date; and declaring an
emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 6-187. A. A competency examination shall be adopted by
18 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation for the general
19 education, professional education and various subject areas and
20 grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and
21 competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area
22 the person is seeking licensure or certification to teach which
23 shall also include licensure or certification as an administrator,
24 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. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
19 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
20 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
21 completed the subject area portion of the examination.
22 Certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
23 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
24 approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

1 2. Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education
2 may be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
3 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
4 appropriate subject area portion of the examination by July 1, ~~2012~~
5 2014. Any teacher who is certified to teach early childhood
6 education may be certified in elementary education upon meeting the
7 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
8 appropriate subject area portion of the examination by July 1, ~~2012~~
9 2014. Any special education teacher who becomes certified to teach
10 through completion of an accredited teacher preparation program may
11 be certified in early childhood or elementary education upon meeting
12 the requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
13 appropriate subject portion of the examination prior to July 1, ~~2012~~
14 2014. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through completion
15 of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
16 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
17 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
18 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
19 appropriate subject area portion of the examination by July 1, ~~2012~~
20 2014.

21 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
22 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
23 Commission.

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

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2012.

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

20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 3-19-12 - DO
21 PASS, As Coauthored.

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