

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 HOUSE BILL 1582

By: Martin (Scott)

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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 4, Chapter
9 61, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 6-187),
10 which relates to teacher competency examinations;
11 deleting requirement for certain degree completion
for certain certification; deleting certain
certification exceptions for certain teachers;
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. 2001, Section 6-187, as
16 last amended by Section 4, Chapter 61, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S. Supp.
17 2010, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

20 C. ~~1-~~ Except as otherwise provided for in this ~~subsection~~
21 section, a teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher
22 meets the necessary requirements provided by law and has
23 successfully completed the subject area portion of the examination.
24 ~~Certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education~~

1 ~~shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program~~
2 ~~approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.~~

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

18 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
19 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
20 Commission.

21 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
22 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
23 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
24 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district

1 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
2 provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the
3 teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an
4 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
5 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
6 certificate or with a license in another curricular area with
7 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
8 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to
9 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
10 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

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

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