

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2683

By: Coody

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8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to schools; amending Sections 1 and
10 2, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013,
11 Sections 6-122.7 and 6-122.8), which relate to the
12 issuance of certificates to teach in the area of
13 mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; adding
14 requirement for issuance of a one-year provisional
15 certificate; updating statutory language; modifying
16 requirements for issuance of a standard certificate;
17 allowing individual who holds certain certificates to
18 be considered highly qualified upon completion of
19 certain examinations; clarifying certain standard
20 certification requirements; limiting application on
21 certain highly qualified teacher requirements; adding
22 requirement for standard certification in area of
23 mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities;
24 directing the State Board of Education to issue a
standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate or
severe-profound disabilities to individuals with
certain alternative certification; excluding
paraprofessionals in certain areas; listing
requirements; providing for codification; providing
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 336, O.S.L.
2 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-122.7), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Section 6-122.7 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the
5 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year provisional
6 certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound
7 disabilities to any qualified candidate who has:

8 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
9 institution of higher education;

10 2. Been recommended for a certificate by a school district
11 board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;

12 ~~2.~~ 3. Satisfactorily completed a one-hundred-fifty-clock-hour
13 special education program prescribed by the Board; and

14 ~~3.~~ 4. On file with the Board a national criminal history record
15 check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of ~~Title 70 of the~~
16 ~~Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title. The individual applying for a
17 provisional certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the
18 national criminal history record check.

19 B. The one-year provisional certificate issued pursuant to this
20 section may be renewed for two (2) additional periods of one-year
21 each upon proof from an accredited institution of higher education
22 that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6)
23 credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in ~~an~~
24 ~~alternative~~ a nontraditional route to certification program in

1 either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or toward a
2 master's degree in special education.

3 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board
4 of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-
5 moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has:

6 1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to
7 this section;

8 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework ~~and any~~
9 ~~required examinations of an alternative~~ a nontraditional route to
10 certification program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound
11 disabilities or a master's degree in special education from an
12 accredited institution of higher education within three (3) years of
13 issuance of the original provisional certificate and any
14 examinations required to obtain a standard certificate in mild-
15 moderate or severe-profound disabilities;

16 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area
17 competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of
18 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title; and

19 4. Submitted an application and payment of the required
20 certification fee.

21 D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual
22 who holds a current provisional certificate pursuant to subsection A
23 or B of this section or a current standard certificate pursuant to
24 subsection C of this section may satisfy the highly qualified

1 teacher requirement for early childhood education or elementary
2 education by successful completion of the early childhood education
3 or elementary education examinations.

4 E. To obtain standard certification in early childhood
5 education or elementary education, an individual shall complete an
6 appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma
7 Commission for Teacher Preparation.

8 F. Nothing in this section shall change the requirements an
9 individual is required to satisfy to be considered highly qualified
10 in a secondary core academic area.

11 G. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
12 the provisions of this section.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 336, O.S.L.
14 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Section 6-122.8), is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 Section 6-122.8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
17 State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the
18 area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any
19 individual who has:

20 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
21 institution of higher education;

22 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework ~~and any~~
23 ~~examination~~ that may be required for a master's degree in special
24 education from an accredited institution of higher education and any

1 examinations required to obtain a standard certificate in mild-
2 moderate or severe-profound disabilities;

3 ~~2.~~ 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area
4 competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of
5 ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title;

6 ~~3.~~ 4. On file with the State Board of Education a national
7 criminal history record check as required pursuant to Section 5-142
8 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title; and

9 ~~4.~~ 5. Submitted an application and payment of the required
10 certification fee.

11 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual
12 who holds a current standard certificate pursuant to subsection A of
13 this section can satisfy the highly qualified teacher requirement
14 for early childhood education or elementary education by successful
15 completion of the early childhood education or elementary education
16 examinations.

17 C. To obtain standard certification in early childhood
18 education or elementary education, the individual shall complete an
19 appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma
20 Commission for Teacher Preparation.

21 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.9 of Title 70, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board
2 of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-
3 moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any individual certified
4 via an alternative certification route in early childhood education
5 or elementary education who has:

6 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
7 institution of higher education;

8 2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate or severe-profound
9 disabilities competency examinations; and

10 3. Submitted an application and payment of the required
11 certification fee.

12 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and with the
13 exception of paraprofessionals under the Career Development areas,
14 the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in
15 the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities to any
16 individual certified via an alternative certification route in a
17 core academic area, which includes Mathematics, Science, English,
18 Language Arts, History, Foreign Language, Music, Art, Elementary
19 Education and Early Childhood Education, who has:

20 1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited
21 institution of higher education;

22 2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate or severe-profound
23 disabilities competency examinations; and

24

1 3. Submitted an application and payment of the required
2 certification fee.

3 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

4 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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