HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2683 By: Coody

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; amending Sections 1 and 2, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2013, Sections 6-122.7 and 6-122.8), which relate to the issuance of certificates to teach in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; adding requirement for issuance of a one-year provisional certificate; updating statutory language; modifying requirements for issuance of a standard certificate; allowing individual who holds certain certificates to be considered highly qualified upon completion of certain examinations; clarifying certain standard certification requirements; limiting application on certain highly qualified teacher requirements; adding requirement for standard certification in area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; 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:

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/26/2014 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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