

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE BILL 1377

By: Virgin

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; requiring State Board of
8 Education to issue provisional and standard
9 certificates to teach in certain areas if certain
10 conditions are met; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-
11 187, as last amended by Section 11, Chapter 223,
12 O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Section 6-187),
13 which relates to competency examinations; removing
14 dates in which certain teachers may complete certain
15 examinations as a requirement to become certified in
16 certain areas; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 13-110,
17 which relates to teacher pay; requiring certain
18 teachers to be paid certain percent above prevailing
19 teacher wage; providing for codification; and
20 providing an effective date.

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

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.7 of Title 70, unless
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
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 been recommended for

1 such a certificate by a public school district in this state or an
2 Oklahoma accredited institute of higher education, following the
3 individual's satisfactory completion of a prescribed one-hundred-
4 fifty-hour special education boot camp program and who has on file
5 with the State Board of Education the required national criminal
6 history record check. The individual applying for a provisional
7 certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the national
8 criminal history record check.

9 B. The one-year provisional certificate may be renewed for two
10 additional periods of one (1) year each, upon proof from an Oklahoma
11 accredited institute of higher education that the individual has
12 successfully completed at least six (6) credit hours of prescribed
13 coursework during the previous year in an alternative route to
14 certification program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound
15 disabilities or toward a master's degree in special education.

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

20 1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to
21 subsections A and B of this section;

22 2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework and any
23 required examination(s) of an alternative route to certification
24 program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or a

1 master's degree in special education from an Oklahoma accredited
2 institute of higher education within three (3) years of issuance of
3 the original provisional certificate;

4 3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area of the
5 state certification examination; and

6 4. Submitted an application and payment of the prescribed
7 certification fee.

8 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
9 the provisions of this section.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.8 of Title 70, unless
12 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

17 1. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework and any
18 examination or examinations that may be required for a master's
19 degree in special education from an Oklahoma accredited institute of
20 higher education;

21 2. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area of the
22 state certification examination;

23 3. Completed the required national criminal history record
24 check on file with the State Board of Education; and

1 4. Submitted an application and payment of the prescribed
2 certification fee.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as
4 last amended by Section 11, Chapter 223, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp.
5 2012, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency
7 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
8 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination
9 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and
10 Accountability for the general education, professional education and
11 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring
12 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or
13 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking licensure or
14 certification to teach which shall also include licensure or
15 certification as an administrator, as prescribed by the State Board
16 of Education.

17 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
18 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
19 confidentiality of examinations.

20 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for licensing until
21 successfully completing the competency examination except those
22 candidates who make application to the State Board and meet the
23 criteria for the Alternative Placement Program pursuant to Section
24 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to areas of

1 approval in which the licensed or certified teacher has successfully
2 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
3 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
4 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
5 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
6 area test.

7 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
8 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
9 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

10 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
11 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
12 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
13 completed the subject area portion of the examination.
14 Certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
15 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
16 approved by the Commission .

17 2. Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education
18 may be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
19 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
20 appropriate subject area portion of the examination ~~by July 1, 2014.~~
21 Any teacher who is certified to teach early childhood education may
22 be certified in elementary education upon meeting the requirements
23 provided in law and successful completion of the appropriate subject
24 area portion of the examination ~~by July 1, 2014.~~ Any special

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

12 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
13 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
14 Commission.

15 E. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
16 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
17 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
18 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
19 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
20 provisional or standard certificate or who is licensed in the
21 teaching profession. In the event a district is unable to hire an
22 individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document
23 efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or standard
24 certificate or with a license in another curricular area with

1 academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these
2 alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to
3 employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the
4 State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

5 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 13-110, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 13-110. A. Qualified and properly certified teachers
8 of special education shall be paid a minimum of five percent (5%)
9 above the prevailing wage paid teachers of children who are
10 nondisabled in the same school district.

11 B. In addition to the teacher pay provisions set forth in
12 subsections A and C of this section, qualified and properly
13 certified teachers of special education assigned to teach students
14 with disabilities in the severe-profound range of functioning or
15 assigned to teach students identified as having emotional
16 disturbance or autism who receive their special education services
17 in a special education setting for eighty percent (80%) or more of
18 the school day shall be paid a minimum of five percent (5%) above
19 the prevailing wage paid teachers of children who are nondisabled in
20 the same school district.

21 C. In addition to the teacher pay provisions set forth in
22 subsections A and B of this section, during each subsequent year of
23 employment as a special education teacher in the same school
24 district, qualified and properly certified teachers of special

1 education who serve as special education teachers for more than five
2 (5) consecutive school years in the same school district shall be
3 paid a minimum of five percent (5%) above the prevailing wage paid
4 teachers of children who are nondisabled in the same school
5 district.

6 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2013.

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