

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2680

By: Coody

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to teaching; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 6-190, which relates to licensing and  
9 certification; modifying background check procedures  
10 if certain check was previously performed; and  
11 providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school  
16 district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in  
17 Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified or licensed  
18 to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the  
19 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for  
20 by Section 6-101 of this title and by other law.

21 B. The Board shall issue a license to teach to any person who:

22 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program  
23 required by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 1997, and  
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1 the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation beginning July 1,  
2 1997;

3 2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher  
4 education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

5 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the  
6 Board;

7 4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency  
8 examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

9 5. Has successfully completed the competency examination  
10 required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

11 6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a  
12 current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State  
13 Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history  
14 record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the  
16 Board may issue a temporary license which shall be effective until  
17 receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record.  
18 The person applying for a license shall be responsible for the cost  
19 of the criminal history records.

20 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
21 who:

22 1. a. holds a license to teach in accordance with the  
23 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act,  
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- b. has served a minimum of one (1) school year as a resident teacher,
- c. has made the necessary application and paid the certification fee as prescribed by the Board, and
- d. has been recommended for certification by the residency committee;

2. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets standards set by the Board; or

3. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial Oklahoma certification who has not applied for and received an Oklahoma teacher license shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

E. If a resident teacher is a graduate of an out-of-state institution of higher education, the recommendation of the residency committee shall be made to the State Board of Education.

1 F. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to  
2 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the  
3 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional  
4 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher  
5 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

6 G. An applicant who has already completed an Oklahoma criminal  
7 history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as  
8 well as a national criminal history record check as a student  
9 teacher shall only have to complete a fingerprint wrap-back check  
10 from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation in order to comply  
11 with paragraph 6 of subsection B and subsection D of this section.  
12 As used in this subsection, "student teacher" means a student  
13 enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education who, as a  
14 part of the curriculum or training, will have or is likely to have  
15 direct contact with students in public or private schools.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2014.

18 54-2-9712 EK 01/08/14