

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR  
5 SENATE BILL NO. 20

By: Sharp

6  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70  
9 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as amended by Section 17,  
10 Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section  
11 6-190), which relates to qualifications for  
12 certification; directing the State Board of Education  
13 to issue a certificate to teach to persons with out-  
14 of-state certificates who meet certain requirements;  
15 exempting such persons from additional examinations  
16 and fees; requiring such persons to submit certain  
17 criminal history records; providing an effective  
18 date; and declaring an emergency.

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1 Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101  
2 of this title and by other law.

3 B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
4 who:

5 1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program  
6 required by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

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

9 3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the  
10 Board;

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

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

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

1 C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person  
2 who:

3 1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets ~~standards set by~~  
4 the Board the requirements set forth in subsection F of this  
5 section; or

6 2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional  
7 Teaching Standards.

8 D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial  
9 Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current  
10 Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
11 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
12 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
13 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue  
14 a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of  
15 the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person  
16 applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the  
17 criminal history records.

18 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to  
19 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the  
20 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional  
21 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher  
22 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

23 F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person  
24 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate and who meets the

1 requirements to be considered highly qualified. The certificate to  
2 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most  
3 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on  
4 the out-of-state certificate.

5 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
6 subsection and who has five (5) years of successful teaching  
7 experience as a certified teacher in an accredited school shall not  
8 be required to take any additional competency, subject area or other  
9 applicable examinations and shall not be required to pay any  
10 additional fees for certification.

11 3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this  
12 subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma  
13 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
14 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as  
15 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon  
16 receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may  
17 issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt  
18 of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check.  
19 The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the  
20 cost of the criminal history record checks.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

22 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
24

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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