

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE BILL 2946

By: Henke

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-190), which relates to teacher certification; deleting certain teaching experience requirement for persons holding out-of-state certification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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 certificate which shall be effective
17 until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history
18 record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible
19 for the cost of the criminal history records.

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

22 1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets the requirements
23 set forth in subsection F of this section; or
24

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

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

13 E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to
14 January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the
15 Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional
16 development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher
17 Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

18 F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person
19 who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to
20 teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most
21 closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on
22 the out-of-state certificate.

23 2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this
24 subsection ~~and who has five (5) years of successful teaching~~

1 ~~experience as a certified teacher in an accredited school~~ shall not
2 be required to take any competency examinations in those subject
3 areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the subject areas and
4 grade levels recognized on the out-of-state certificate.

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

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

16 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
17 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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