

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1206

By: Casey of the House

and

Pemberton of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
12 Section 6-187, as last amended by Section 31, Chapter
13 54, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-187),
14 which relates to competency examinations; providing
15 for additional certification of special education
16 teachers in certain instances; and providing an
17 effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as
20 last amended by Section 31, Chapter 54, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp.
21 2016, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency
23 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
24 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination
 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and

1 Accountability for the general education, professional education and
2 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring
3 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or
4 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking certification to
5 teach which shall also include certification as an administrator, as
6 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

7 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
8 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
9 confidentiality of examinations.

10 B. No teacher candidate shall be eligible for certification
11 until successfully completing the competency examination except
12 those candidates who make application to the State Board and meet
13 the criteria for the alternative placement program pursuant to
14 Section 6-122.3 of this title. Certification shall be limited to
15 areas of approval in which the certified teacher has successfully
16 completed the examination. Subject to the provisions of subsection
17 C of this section, testing for certification for subjects in which a
18 teacher candidate or teacher is seeking a minor teaching assignment
19 or an endorsement to teach shall be limited to the specific subject
20 area test.

21 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
22 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
23 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

1 C. 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, a
2 teacher may be certified in as many areas as the teacher meets the
3 necessary requirements provided by law and has successfully
4 completed the subject area portion of the examination.

5 2. Except as otherwise provided for in this paragraph,
6 certification in early childhood, elementary, or special education
7 shall require completion of an appropriate teacher education program
8 approved by the Commission.

9 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
10 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
11 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
12 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
13 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
14 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
15 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
16 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
17 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited
18 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
19 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
20 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
21 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through
22 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
23 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
24 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the

1 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
2 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special
3 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved
4 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood
5 but who has successfully completed the subject area portion of the
6 examination may be certified in elementary education or early
7 childhood for the purpose of providing direct instruction and
8 serving as the teacher of record for grading purposes in special
9 education settings only.

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

13 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English
14 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency
15 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
16 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
17 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
18 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
19 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a
20 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in
21 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area
22 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in
23 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the
24 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State

1 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate
2 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency
3 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in
4 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
5 foreign language immersion program.

6 F. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
7 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
8 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
9 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
10 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
11 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
12 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
13 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
14 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
15 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
16 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
17 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
18 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.
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21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 03/01/2017 - DO PASS,
22 As Amended and Coauthored.
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