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April 3, 2017

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1957

By: Baker of the House

and

Sharp of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative placement teaching certificates; removing requirement that persons enrolled in alternative placement program document certain number of years of work experience under certain circumstance; 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 6-122.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 272, O.S.L. 2016 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 6-122.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.3 A. The State Board of Education shall grant an alternative placement teaching certificate to a person who makes application to the Board and meets the following criteria:

1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an

 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the

 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has

1 attained a retention grade point average of not less
2 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

3 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
4 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
5 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
6 or a master of library science degree, from an
7 institution accredited by a national or regional
8 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
9 Secretary of the United States Department of
10 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
11 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
12 degrees, or

13 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
14 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
15 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
16 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
17 to an area of certification as determined by the State
18 Board of Education, and

19 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
20 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
21 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an
22 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
23 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
24 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-

1 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
2 Department of Career and Technology Education;

3 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
4 means of an alternative placement program in not more than three (3)
5 years. The State Board of Education shall determine the subject
6 matter and the number of clock or semester hours required for the
7 professional education component for each person making application
8 for an alternative placement teaching certificate based on the
9 criteria of paragraph 1 of this subsection.

10 The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six
11 (6) semester hours or ninety (90) clock hours and a maximum of
12 eighteen (18) semester hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock
13 hours for the professional education component.

14 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
15 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
16 subsection E of this section;

17 3. Has passed the general education and subject area portions
18 of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this
19 title in the area of specialization for which certification is
20 sought; and

21 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
22 district in this state offering employment in the area of
23 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
24 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by

1 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
2 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
3 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
4 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
5 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
6 of the certificate shall be considered a resident teacher for the
7 purposes of Section 6-195 of this title.

8 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
9 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
10 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
11 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
12 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
13 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
14 placement program.

15 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:

16 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
17 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
18 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
19 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
20 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed
21 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
22 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

1 2. Have on file with the director of teacher education at an
2 Oklahoma institution of higher education a plan for meeting standard
3 certification requirements within three (3) years; and

4 3. Participate in the Residency Program established in Section
5 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
6 other resident teachers, except those persons who hold a
7 certificate; ~~and~~

8 ~~4. Except for persons participating in the federal Troops To~~
9 ~~Teachers Program, document at least two (2) years of work experience~~
10 ~~which is related to the subject area of specialization if the person~~
11 ~~has only a baccalaureate degree with no postbaccalaureate work in a~~
12 ~~related area.~~

13 D. The State Board of Education may grant an exception to the
14 requirements for certification and, upon demonstration by an
15 individual of specific competency in the subject area of
16 specialization, may grant a certificate to the individual. The
17 State Board may establish other requirements necessary to grant
18 exceptions.

19 E. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
20 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
21 for standard certification.

22 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
23 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
24 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be

1 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
2 limited to ninety (90) clock hours of classroom teaching per
3 semester.

4 G. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
5 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
6 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
7 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

8 H. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
9 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
10 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
11 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
12 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
13 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
14 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
15 section to be:

16 1. Admitted to an alternative placement program without further
17 qualification; and

18 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
19 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
20 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
21 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
22 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
23 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
24 during regular semesters if offered.

1 I. The criteria specified in subsection H of this section can
2 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
3 institutions of higher education.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

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

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
10 April 3, 2017 - DO PASS
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