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STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

HOUSE BILL 3379

By: Miller of the House

and

Pemberton of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.3), which relates to alternative teaching certificates; modifying professional education requirements; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122.3, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 165, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, 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 attained a retention grade point average of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or

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

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

d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined

1 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
2 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
3 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

11 ~~The~~ For the professional education component, the State Board of
12 Education shall establish a core minimum of six (6) semester hours
13 ~~or ninety (90) clock hours~~ and a maximum of eighteen (18) semester
14 ~~hours or two hundred seventy (270) clock hours for the professional~~
15 ~~education component of professional education coursework from an~~
16 institution of higher education program whose accreditation is
17 recognized by the Commission for Educational Quality and
18 Accountability. The professional education coursework shall include
19 at least one (1) college credit course addressing pedagogical
20 principles and at least one (1) college credit course addressing
21 classroom management.

22 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
23 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
24 subsection E of this section;

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

5 4. Either presents a document from an accredited public school
6 district in this state offering employment in the area of
7 specialization for which certification is sought on condition that
8 the person enroll in an alternative placement program approved by
9 the State Board of Education or declares the intention to seek
10 employment as a teacher at an accredited public school district in
11 this state. The certificate granted pursuant to this subsection
12 shall be considered a "valid certificate of qualification" for the
13 purposes of Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of this title, and the holder
14 of the certificate shall be considered an inductee for the purposes
15 of Section 6-195 of this title.

16 B. An alternative placement teaching certificate shall be
17 renewed for not more than a maximum of three (3) years upon
18 presentation of a document from an accredited public school district
19 in this state offering renewed employment in the same area of
20 specialization and a document from a teacher education institution
21 verifying satisfactory progress in an appropriate alternative
22 placement program.

23 C. Persons enrolled in an alternative placement program shall:
24

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

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

11 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
12 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
13 other inductees.

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

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

23 F. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
24 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished

1 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
2 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
3 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom
4 teaching per semester.

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

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

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

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

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

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.
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8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/25/2020
9 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.
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