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February 25, 2020

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 1115

By: Sharp of the Senate

and

Sterling of the House

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[ teacher certification - competency examinations -
emergency or provisional certificate - effective date
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-187, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 2017 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-187), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability for the general education, professional education and various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or teacher in the subject area the person is seeking certification to

1 teach which shall also include certification as an administrator, as
2 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

3 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
4 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
5 confidentiality of examinations.

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

17 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the general education,
18 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
19 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

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

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

5 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
6 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
7 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
8 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
9 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
10 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
11 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
12 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
13 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited
14 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
15 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
16 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
17 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through
18 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
19 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
20 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
21 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
22 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special
23 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved
24 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood

1 education but who has successfully completed the subject area
2 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education
3 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct
4 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading
5 purposes in special education settings only.

6 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
7 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
8 Commission.

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

1 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
2 foreign language immersion program.

3 F. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
4 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
5 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
6 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
7 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a
8 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
9 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
10 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
11 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
12 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
13 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
14 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
15 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

16 2. The State Board of Education may renew the emergency or
17 provisional certificate of an individual who has been employed by a
18 school district board of education for at least two (2) years if the
19 following criteria are met:

- 20 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or
21 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of
22 this subsection for two (2) years,
23 b. the individual has not successfully completed the
24 competency examinations required by this section,

- 1 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work
2 to the State Board of Education,
- 3 d. the employing school district board of education
4 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for
5 the ensuing fiscal year, and
- 6 e. the superintendent of the employing school district
7 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the
8 emergency or provisional certificate should be
9 renewed.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
12 February 25, 2020 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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