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February 11, 2020

By: Stanislawski

An Act relating to teachers; directing the State Department of Education in certain coordination to establish a microcredential program for certain subject areas; directing the creation of certain working group to determine how certain microcredential may be used; allowing courses offered as part of certain program to be provided in person, online or in certain blended format; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-212 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Education in coordination with the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability shall establish a microcredential program for the purpose of permitting any teacher candidate or teacher who holds a certificate to teach to complete additional coursework and earn microcredentials in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) endorsement areas, including computer science.

1 B. The State Department of Education and the Commission for  
2 Educational Quality and Accountability shall convene a working group  
3 including pertinent education stakeholders to determine how any  
4 microcredential awarded pursuant to any microcredential program  
5 established pursuant to subsection A of this section will be used:

6 1. To award add-on endorsements to teachers in STEM endorsement  
7 areas, including computer science;

8 2. In lieu of the subject area competency examination required  
9 by Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

10 3. To meet the professional development requirements  
11 established in Section 6-194 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

12 C. Any course offered through a microcredential program  
13 established pursuant to subsection A of this section may be offered  
14 in person, online or in a blended format of in-person and online  
15 instruction.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

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

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
22 February 11, 2020 - DO PASS  
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