

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1128
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Author:	Sen. Simpson
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Bill Analysis

SB 1128 authorizes the State Board of Education to grant an exception to the requirements for all certification examinations for teacher candidates who are deaf. The measure defines deaf as possessing a hearing loss so severe that the person cannot process auditory linguistic information with or without accommodation and whose primary language and teaching environment is American Sign Language. Candidates granted such an exception may teach in American Sign Language immersion programs, at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, and other programs where American Sign Language is the language of instruction. The State Board may grant an exemption upon:

- 1) Verification by a licensed audiologist that the teacher candidate is deaf as defined by the measure
- 2) Demonstration of fluency in American Sign Language
- 3) Demonstration of competency in the subject area of specialization as approved by the Board in lieu of certification examinations
- 4) Sponsorship by a certified deaf education teacher for a mentorship program

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