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April 5, 2022

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 3658

By: Sterling, Phillips, Talley,
and Randleman of the House

and

Pemberton and Hicks of the
Senate

An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-122.3 and 6-122.11, which relate to alternative teacher certification; removing requirement to pass the general education portion of the competency examination; deleting general education examination requirement; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Sections 6-182 and 6-187, which relate to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act; modifying definition for competency examination; removing requirement to pass the general education portion of the competency examination; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.2, which relates to school psychologist or psychometrist certification; striking reference to the general education portion of the competency examination; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, 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 1. a. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
2 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
3 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
4 attained a retention grade point average of not less
5 than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale, or
6 b. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
7 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
8 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
9 or a master of library science degree, from an
10 institution accredited by a national or regional
11 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
12 Secretary of the United States Department of
13 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
14 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
15 degrees, or
16 c. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
17 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
18 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
19 qualified work experience in a field that corresponds
20 to an area of certification as determined by the State
21 Board of Education, and
22 d. in addition to the requirements of subparagraphs a, b
23 and c of this paragraph, has demonstrated competency
24 or completed a major in a field that corresponds to an

1 area of specialization for an Elementary-Secondary
2 Certificate or a Secondary Certificate as determined
3 by the State Board of Education or a vocational-
4 technical certificate as recommended by the Oklahoma
5 Department of Career and Technology Education;

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

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

17 The requirements set forth in this subsection shall exclude all
18 student teaching requirements pursuant to the provisions of
19 subsection E of this section;

20 3. Has passed the ~~general education and subject area portions~~
21 portion of the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of
22 this title in the area of specialization for which certification is
23 sought; and
24

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

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

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

20 1. Have never been denied admittance to a teacher education
21 program approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
22 the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the
23 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation to offer teacher
24 education programs, nor have enrolled in and subsequently failed

1 courses necessary to successfully meet the minimum requirements of
2 the program, except those persons who hold a certificate;

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

6 3. Participate in an induction program as required in Section
7 6-195 of this title and have the same duties and responsibilities as
8 other inductees.

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

15 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
16 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
17 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
18 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
19 advanced degree pursuant to this section if the candidate has an
20 advanced degree in a subject that is substantially comparable to the
21 content assessed on a subject area examination. The degree shall be
22 from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting
23 agency which is recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department
24

1 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
2 necessary information to determine comparability.

3 F. Student teaching and a prestudent teaching field experience
4 shall not be required of alternative placement program participants
5 for standard certification.

6 G. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
7 authorizing adjunct teachers who shall be persons with distinguished
8 qualifications in their field. Adjunct teachers shall not be
9 required to meet standard certification. Adjunct teachers shall be
10 limited to two hundred seventy (270) clock hours of classroom
11 teaching per semester.

12 H. Each teacher education institution shall provide the
13 Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation an annual report of
14 information as specified by the Commission regarding participation
15 in the alternative placement programs offered by the institution.

16 I. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
17 accredit, renew the accreditation of, or otherwise approve any
18 teacher education program of any institution of higher education in
19 this state that has not implemented alternative placement programs
20 in at least four areas of specialization, including mathematics,
21 science and a foreign language. Each institution shall allow
22 individuals who meet the criteria of subsections A and C of this
23 section to be:
24

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

3 2. Offered the opportunity to complete the requirements for
4 standard certification set forth in subsection A of this section
5 during the summer preceding and the summer following the first year
6 of teaching with an alternative placement teaching certificate. Any
7 person seeking standard certification through an alternative
8 placement program shall be permitted to take necessary courses
9 during regular semesters if offered.

10 J. The criteria specified in subsection I of this section can
11 be met through a cooperative arrangement entered into by two or more
12 institutions of higher education.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.11, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-122.11 Notwithstanding any other provision of the
16 law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year alternative
17 teacher certificate, renewable for up to three (3) years, to teach
18 early childhood education or elementary education to any qualified
19 candidate who:

- 20 1. a. has successfully completed a terminal degree, such as
21 a doctorate of philosophy, a doctorate in education,
22 professional doctorates, a master of fine arts degree
23 or a master of library science degree, from an
24 institution accredited by a national or regional

1 accrediting agency which is recognized by the
2 Secretary of the United States Department of
3 Education. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
4 Education shall be consulted to verify other terminal
5 degrees, or

- 6 b. holds at least a baccalaureate degree from an
7 institution whose accreditation is recognized by the
8 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and has
9 two (2) years post-degree-completion qualified work
10 experience in a field that corresponds to early
11 childhood education or elementary education; and

12 2. Declares the intention to earn standard certification by
13 means of the early childhood and elementary education alternative
14 certification program in not more than three (3) years and has:

- 15 a. within the first year satisfactorily completed six (6)
16 credit hours in classroom management and reading
17 instruction from an educator preparation program
18 approved and accredited by the Commission for
19 Educational Quality and Accountability, completed the
20 required State Department of Education approved
21 training on cognitive science of how students learn to
22 read and participated in a yearlong mentorship or
23 instructional coaching in reading and classroom
24 management provided by the employing school district

- 1 prior to the renewal of the provisional certificate
2 for a second year,
- 3 b. within the second year satisfactorily completed six
4 (6) credit hours in child development and math
5 instruction from an educator preparation program
6 approved and accredited by the Commission for
7 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated
8 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or
9 instructional coaching in child development and math
10 instruction provided by the employing school district
11 prior to the renewal of the provisional certificate
12 for a third year, and successfully completed the
13 ~~general education and subject area portions~~ portion of
14 the competency examination required in Section 6-187
15 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of
16 specialization for which certification is sought, and
- 17 c. within the third year satisfactorily completed six (6)
18 additional credit hours of professional education
19 coursework from an educator preparation program
20 approved and accredited by the Commission for
21 Educational Quality and Accountability, participated
22 in an additional yearlong mentorship and/or
23 instructional coaching provided by the employing
24 school district, and successfully passed the

1 professional knowledge portions of the competency
2 examination required in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of
3 the Oklahoma Statutes in the area of specialization
4 for which certification is sought.

5 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-182, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

8 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

9 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality
10 and Accountability;

11 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
12 Education;

13 4. "Professional development program" means the program
14 mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous
15 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of
16 this state;

17 5. "Teacher education professional development committee" means
18 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the
19 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in
20 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

21 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

22 7. "Induction" means a program that provides support,
23 mentorship and coaching to educators at the beginning of their
24 careers or as they transition to new roles within a school or

1 district. Induction programs work with inductees to assist in all
2 matters concerning classroom management and professional development
3 for that teacher. Induction programs may involve a committee of one
4 or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant principal of
5 the employing school, one or more administrators designated by the
6 school district board of education, a teacher educator in a college
7 or school of education of an institution of higher education or an
8 educator in a department or school outside the institution's teacher
9 education unit;

10 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-
11 116 of this title;

12 9. "Inductee" means any certified teacher who is employed in an
13 accredited school to serve as a teacher and the school district has
14 elected to place under the guidance and assistance of a mentor
15 teacher or induction committee. Inductees shall include those
16 individuals having completed the program of the college or school of
17 education of the accredited institution of higher education from
18 which the person has been graduated, and shall have successfully
19 completed the competency examination in areas of approval in which
20 the inductee seeks certification, those individuals eligible for the
21 alternative placement teaching certificate according to Section 6-
22 122.3 of this title, and those individuals issued an emergency or
23 provisional certificate according to Section 6-187 of this title.
24 All teachers working in a new role, including classroom teachers

1 transitioning to a new role, shall be considered inductees for
2 purposes of induction programs;

3 10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a
4 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher
5 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

6 11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher who has been appointed
7 to provide guidance, support, coaching and assistance to an inductee
8 employed by the school district. A mentor teacher shall be a
9 current or former classroom teacher and have a minimum of two (2)
10 years of classroom teaching experience as a certified teacher.

11 When possible, a mentor teacher shall have participated in
12 mentor teacher professional development and have expertise in the
13 teaching field of the inductee;

14 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is
15 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher
16 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the
17 preparation of education personnel; and

18 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in
19 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher
20 and shall consist of tests over ~~general education~~, professional
21 education and subject areas as defined by the Commission for
22 Educational Quality and Accountability.

23 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-187, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6-187. A. Prior to July 1, 2014, a competency
2 examination shall be adopted by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher
3 Preparation and beginning July 1, 2014, a competency examination
4 shall be adopted by the Commission for Educational Quality and
5 Accountability for the ~~general education~~, professional education and
6 various subject areas and grade levels for purposes of ensuring
7 academic achievement and competency of each teacher candidate or
8 teacher in the subject area the person is seeking certification to
9 teach which shall also include certification as an administrator, as
10 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

11 The Commission, consistent with the purposes of this section,
12 shall promulgate rules and procedures to guarantee the
13 confidentiality of examinations.

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

1 A teacher candidate or teacher may take the ~~general education~~,
2 professional education or subject area portions of the examination
3 subject to any limit imposed by the Commission.

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

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

12 Any teacher who is certified to teach elementary education may
13 be certified in early childhood education upon meeting the
14 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
15 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any teacher
16 who is certified to teach early childhood education may be certified
17 in elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in
18 law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area
19 portion of the examination. Any special education teacher who
20 becomes certified to teach through completion of an accredited
21 teacher preparation program may be certified in early childhood or
22 elementary education upon meeting the requirements provided in law
23 and successful completion of the appropriate subject portion of the
24 examination. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through

1 completion of an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes
2 alternatively certified to teach through the Troops to Teachers
3 program may be certified in special education upon meeting the
4 requirements provided in law and successful completion of the
5 appropriate subject area portion of the examination. Any special
6 education teacher who has not completed a Commission-approved
7 teacher education program in elementary education or early childhood
8 education but who has successfully completed the subject area
9 portion of the examination may be certified in elementary education
10 or early childhood education for the purpose of providing direct
11 instruction and serving as the teacher of record for grading
12 purposes in special education settings only.

13 D. The Commission shall offer the competency examination at
14 least four times per calendar year on dates to be established by the
15 Commission.

16 E. If a teacher candidate or teacher is a non-native-English
17 speaker, the Commission shall offer the subject area competency
18 examination in the native language of the teacher candidate or
19 teacher only if the teacher candidate or teacher is employed or has
20 been offered employment by a school district as a teacher in a
21 foreign language immersion program offered by the school district.
22 If a non-native-English speaker who has received certification in a
23 subject area after taking the subject area competency examination in
24 the native language of the speaker seeks to add a certification area

1 in the future and that person is no longer employed as a teacher in
2 a foreign language immersion program, the examination for the
3 additional certification area shall be taken in English. The State
4 Board of Education shall issue a restricted license or certificate
5 to any teacher who has completed a subject area competency
6 examination in the native language of the teacher as provided for in
7 this subsection restricting the teacher to teaching only in a
8 foreign language immersion program.

9 F. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
10 Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, may grant an
11 exception to the requirement to complete a subject area examination
12 for initial certification in a field which does not require an
13 advanced degree if the candidate has an advanced degree in a subject
14 that is substantially comparable to the content assessed on a
15 subject area examination. The advanced degree shall be from an
16 institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency
17 which is recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department
18 of Education. The Commission shall provide the Board with the
19 necessary information to determine comparability.

20 G. 1. Nothing in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act shall
21 restrict the right of the State Board of Education to issue an
22 emergency or provisional certificate, as needed. Provided, however,
23 prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district
24 shall document substantial efforts to employ a teacher who holds a

1 provisional or standard certificate. In the event a district is
2 unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district
3 shall document efforts to employ an individual with a provisional or
4 standard certificate in another curricular area with academic
5 preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives
6 have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an
7 individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State
8 Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

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

- 13 a. the individual has been granted an emergency or
14 provisional certificate pursuant to paragraph 1 of
15 this subsection for two (2) years,
- 16 b. the individual has not successfully completed the
17 competency examinations required by this section,
- 18 c. the individual submits a portfolio of his or her work
19 to the State Board of Education, which shall include
20 evidence of progress toward standard certification,
- 21 d. the employing school district board of education
22 agrees to renew the individual's contract to teach for
23 the ensuing fiscal year, and
24

1 e. the superintendent of the employing school district
2 submits to the State Board of Education the reason the
3 emergency or provisional certificate should be renewed
4 and provides evidence of the district's inability to
5 hire a teacher who holds a standard certificate.

6 3. Individuals employed by a school district under an emergency
7 or provisional certificate shall not be considered career teachers
8 and therefore not entitled to the protections of the Teacher Due
9 Process Act of 1990.

10 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-189.2, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 6-189.2 A. Any person seeking certification as a
13 school psychologist or school psychometrist shall be exempt from the
14 requirement to successfully complete the ~~general education and~~
15 professional education ~~portions~~ portion of the competency
16 examination required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-190 of this
17 title.

18 B. Any person certified as a school psychologist or school
19 psychometrist pursuant to a substitution or exemption as provided in
20 this section shall be required to complete all portions of the
21 competency examination as required pursuant to Sections 6-187 and 6-
22 190 of this title if such person seeks to add certification in
23 another subject in the future.

1 C. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall adopt
2 rules to implement the provisions of this section.

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

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
8 April 5, 2022 - DO PASS
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