

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1204

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.7, which relates to the issuance of provisional certificates in certain areas; removing certain requirements for issuance of certain provisional certificate in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education; modifying criteria to renew certain provisional certificate; updating statutory reference; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-122.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.7. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year provisional certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education to any qualified candidate who has:

1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited institution of higher education; and

1       2. ~~Been recommended for a certificate by a school district~~  
2 ~~board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;~~

3       3. ~~Satisfactorily completed a one hundred fifty clock hour~~  
4 ~~special education program prescribed by the Board; and~~

5       4. On file with the Board a national criminal history record  
6 check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of this title. The  
7 individual applying for a provisional certificate shall be  
8 responsible for the cost of the national criminal history record  
9 check.

10       B. The one-year provisional certificate issued pursuant to this  
11 section may be renewed for two (2) additional periods of one-year  
12 each ~~upon proof from an accredited institution of higher education~~  
13 ~~that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6)~~  
14 ~~credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in a~~  
15 ~~nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-~~  
16 ~~moderate or severe-profound disabilities or toward a master's degree~~  
17 ~~in special education~~ if the criteria provided for in subsection G of  
18 Section 6-187 of this title are met.

19       C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board  
20 of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-  
21 moderate disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or  
22 comprehensive special education to any individual who has:

23       1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to  
24 this section;

1        2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework of a  
2 nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-  
3 moderate or severe-profound disabilities or a master's degree in  
4 special education from an accredited institution of higher education  
5 within three (3) years of issuance of the original provisional  
6 certificate and any examinations required to obtain a standard  
7 certificate in mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound  
8 disabilities, or comprehensive special education;

9        3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area  
10 competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of this  
11 title; and

12        4. Submitted an application and payment of the required  
13 certification fee.

14        D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual  
15 who holds a current provisional certificate pursuant to subsection A  
16 or B of this section or a current standard certificate pursuant to  
17 subsection C of this section may satisfy the highly qualified  
18 teacher requirement for early childhood education or elementary  
19 education by successful completion of the early childhood education  
20 or elementary education examinations.

21        E. To obtain standard certification in early childhood  
22 education or elementary education, an individual shall complete an  
23 appropriate teacher education program approved by the ~~Oklahoma~~  
24

1 ~~Commission for Teacher Preparation~~ Commission for Educational  
2 Quality and Accountability.

3 F. Nothing in this section shall change the requirements an  
4 individual is required to satisfy to be considered highly qualified  
5 in a secondary core academic area.

6 G. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement  
7 the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

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

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