

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 756

By: Deevers

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to teachers; creating the Local Teacher Licensure Act; providing short title; providing purpose; authorizing school district boards of education to evaluate and recommend teacher licensure or certification applications; providing process requirements for the State Board of Education; providing for certain failure to act within certain time period to result in certain approval if certain conditions are met; providing term of certain licenses or certificates; subjecting licenses or certificates to certain renewal; directing the State Board of Education to retain certain oversight; directing the State Department of Education to maintain certain records; directing school district boards of education to establish certain minimum procedures; providing for promulgation of rules; 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 5-117.8 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Local Teacher Licensure Act". The purpose of the Local Teacher Licensure Act shall be to grant school district boards of education the

1 authority to evaluate and recommend teacher licensure or
2 certification applications. The State Board of Education shall
3 maintain final oversight and ratification authority over the
4 issuance of teacher licenses or certificates in compliance with
5 Section 5 of Article XIII of the Oklahoma Constitution and Section
6 3-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 B. School district boards of education are hereby authorized to
8 evaluate and recommend approval of teacher licensure or
9 certification applications to the State Board of Education based on
10 the standards set forth in Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

11 C. Upon receiving a recommendation for licensure or
12 certification from a school district board of education, the State
13 Board of Education shall:

14 1. Review the recommendation for completeness and compliance
15 with statutory requirements including, but not limited to, Sections
16 5-142, 6-107, 6-122.3, 6-187, and 6-190 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma
17 Statutes;

18 2. Approve or reject the licensure or certification
19 recommendations within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt; and

20 3. Provide written notification of approval or rejection to the
21 recommending school district board of education and the licensure or
22 certification applicant.

23 D. Failure of the State Board of Education to act on a
24 recommendation within thirty (30) calendar days pursuant to

1 subsection C of this section shall result in the Board's automatic
2 approval of the license or certificate; provided, however, that the
3 recommendation submitted by the school district board of education
4 meets all statutory and procedural requirements set forth in Title
5 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and the rules promulgated by the Board.

6 E. Teacher licenses or certificates issued pursuant to the
7 provisions of this section shall be valid for a term of five (5)
8 years from the date of issuance and shall be subject to renewal in
9 accordance with the provisions of Section 6-108.1 of Title 70 of the
10 Oklahoma Statutes.

11 F. The State Board of Education shall retain oversight of all
12 teacher licensure or certification processes, and the State
13 Department of Education shall maintain all records regarding teacher
14 licenses or certificates issued pursuant to this section.

15 G. School district boards of education shall establish
16 transparent procedures for licensure or certification
17 recommendations including:

18 1. Timelines for application submission, which shall provide
19 teacher license or certificate applicants with a minimum of twenty
20 (20) calendar days to complete the process;

21 2. A timeline for board of education review and approval or
22 rejection, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days from the date of
23 application submission; and
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1 3. Written notification to the teacher license or certificate
2 applicant and the State Department of Education within five (5)
3 business days of the board of education's decision.

4 H. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to
5 implement the provisions of this section.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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