

# An Act

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 20

By: Sharp of the Senate

and

Henke, Kern, Derby, and  
Condit of the House

An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as amended by Section 17, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 6-190), which relates to qualifications for certification; directing the State Board of Education to issue a certificate to teach to persons with out-of-state certificates who meet certain requirements; exempting such persons from certain examinations; requiring such persons to submit certain criminal history records; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Teacher certification

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as amended by Section 17, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 6-190), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-190. A. The board of education of each school district shall employ and contract in writing, as required in Section 6-101 of this title, only with persons certified to teach by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, except as otherwise provided for by Section 6-101 of this title and by other law.

B. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person who:

1. Has successfully completed the teacher education program required by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation;

2. Has graduated from an accredited institution of higher education that has approval or accreditation for teacher education;

3. Has met all other requirements as may be established by the Board;

4. Has made the necessary application and paid the competency examination fee in an amount and as prescribed by the Commission;

5. Has successfully completed the competency examination required in Section 6-187 of this title; and

6. Beginning November 1, 2001, has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

C. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to any person who:

1. Holds an out-of-state certificate and meets ~~standards set by the Board~~ the requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

2. Holds certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

D. Beginning July 1, 2004, any person applying for initial Oklahoma certification shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as

defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record, the Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history records.

E. Any person holding a valid certificate, issued prior to January 1, 1997, shall be a certified teacher for purposes of the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act, subject to any professional development requirements prescribed by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act or by the State Board of Education.

F. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person who holds a valid out-of-state certificate. The certificate to teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state certificate.

2. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this subsection and who has five (5) years of successful teaching experience as a certified teacher in an accredited school shall not be required to take any competency examinations in those subject areas and grade levels most closely aligned to the subject areas and grade levels recognized on the out-of-state certificate.

3. A person who meets the requirements of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall have on file with the Board a current Oklahoma criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Upon receipt of the Oklahoma criminal history record check, the Board may issue a temporary certificate which shall be effective until receipt of the national fingerprint-based criminal history record check. The person applying for a certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history record checks.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

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

Passed the Senate the 25th day of February, 2015.

Eveline Fiala  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 2015.

[Signature]  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 16<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 20 15, at 3:25 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Ledwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 21<sup>st</sup>  
day of April, 20 15, at 2:03 o'clock P M.

Mary Fallin  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 21<sup>st</sup>  
day of April, 20 15, at 3:19 o'clock P M.

By: Ch. Benz