An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2946

By: Henke, Cockroft and Lepak of the House

and

Smalley of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-190, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-190), which relates to teacher certification; requiring the State Board of Education to issue a certificate to teach to persons holding an out-of-country certificate or who complete certain examination; adding out-of-country certificates to certain requirements; deleting certain teaching experience requirement; directing the Board to promulgate rules for processing out-of-country certificates; limiting areas of certification for persons completing a certain examination; requiring certain persons to have certain criminal history record checks on file; providing for a temporary certificate; stating responsibility for costs; amending Section 3, Chapter 394, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 18-114.14), which relates to the minimum teacher salary schedule; directing the Board to accept certain out-of-country teaching experience; establishing process for analyzing certain out-of-country certification documentation; stating responsibilities for costs; directing the Board to accept teaching experience from certain primary and secondary schools; adding out-of-country certification to teaching credit limitation; 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 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2015 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, 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 the requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; ~~or~~

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

3. Holds an out-of-country certificate and meets the requirements set forth in subsection F of this section; or

4. Has successfully completed a competency examination used in the majority of other states or comparable customized exam and meets the requirements set forth in subsection G of this section.

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 or to a person who holds a valid out-of-country certificate and meets any requirements established by the Board. 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 or out-of-country 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 or out-of-country 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.

4. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing a process by which out-of-country certificates will be reviewed and evaluated for purposes of awarding a certificate to teach pursuant to this subsection.

G. 1. The Board shall issue a certificate to teach to a person who has successfully completed a competency exam used in a majority of the other states. The certificate to teach shall only be for those subject areas and grade levels that correspond with a certification area used in Oklahoma.

2. 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. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 394, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 18-114.14), is amended to read as follows:

Section 18-114.14 A. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, teachers in the public schools of Oklahoma shall receive in salary and/or fringe benefits not less than the amounts specified in the following schedule:

MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE

National

Years of Experience	Bachelor's Degree	Board Certification	Master's Degree	Doctor's Degree
0	$31,600	$32,600	$32,800	$34,000
1	$31,975	$32,975	$33,175	$34,375
2	$32,350	$33,350	$33,550	$34,750
3	$32,725	$33,725	$33,925	$35,125
4	$33,100	$34,100	$34,300	$35,500
5	$33,500	$34,500	$34,700	$35,900
6	$33,900	$34,900	$35,100	$36,300
7	$34,300	$35,300	$35,500	$36,700
8	$34,700	$35,700	$35,900	$37,100
9	$35,100	$36,100	$36,300	$37,500
10	$35,950	$36,950	$37,575	$39,625
11	$36,375	$37,375	$38,000	$40,050
12	$36,800	$37,800	$38,425	$40,475
13	$37,225	$38,225	$38,850	$40,900
14	$37,650	$38,650	$39,275	$41,325
15	$38,075	$39,075	$39,700	$41,750
16	$38,500	$39,500	$40,125	$42,175
17	$38,925	$39,925	$40,550	$42,600
18	$39,350	$40,350	$40,975	$43,025
19	$39,775	$40,775	$41,400	$43,450

20	$40,200	$41,200	$41,825	$43,875
21	$40,625	$41,625	$42,250	$44,300
22	$41,050	$42,050	$42,675	$44,725
23	$41,475	$42,475	$43,100	$45,150
24	$41,900	$42,900	$43,525	$45,575
25	$42,325	$43,325	$43,950	$46,000

Years of Experience	Master's Degree + National Board Certification
0	$33,800
1	$34,175
2	$34,550
3	$34,925
4	$35,300
5	$35,700
6	$36,100
7	$36,500
8	$36,900
9	$37,300
10	$38,575
11	$39,000
12	$39,425
13	$39,850

14	$40,275
15	$40,700
16	$41,125
17	$41,550
18	$41,975
19	$42,400
20	$42,825
21	$43,250
22	$43,675
23	$44,100
24	$44,525
25	$44,950

B. When determining the Minimum Salary Schedule, "fringe benefits" shall mean all or part of retirement benefits, excluding the contributions made pursuant to subsection A of Section 17-108.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and the flexible benefit allowance pursuant to Section 26-105 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes from the flexible benefit allowance funds disbursed by the State Board of Education and the State Board of Career and Technology Education pursuant to Section 26-104 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

C. Any of the degrees referred to in this section shall be from a college recognized by the State Board of Education. The ~~State~~ Board ~~of Education~~ shall accept teaching experience from out-of-state school districts that are accredited by the state board of education or appropriate state accrediting agency for the districts. The Board shall accept teaching experience from out-of-country schools that are accredited or otherwise endorsed by the appropriate national or regional accrediting or endorsement authority. Out-of-country certification documentation in a language other than English shall be analyzed by an educational credential evaluation service

approved by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). The person seeking to have credit granted for out-of-country teaching experience shall be responsible for all costs of the analysis by a credential evaluation service. The Board shall accept teaching experience from primary and secondary schools that are operated by the United States Department of Defense or are affiliated with the United States Department of State.

D. For the purpose of state salary increments and retirement, no teacher shall be granted credit for more than five (5) years of active duty in the military service or out-of-state or out-of-country teaching experience as a certified teacher or its equivalent. Nothing in this section shall prohibit boards of education from crediting more years of experience on district salary schedules than those allowed for state purposes.

E. The State Board of Education shall recognize, for purposes of certification and salary increments, all the years of experience of a:

1. Certified teacher who teaches in the educational program of the Department of Corrections, beginning with fiscal year 1981;

2. Vocational rehabilitation counselor under the Department of Human Services if the counselor was employed as a certified teacher by the State Department of Education when the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation was transferred from the State Board of Career and Technology Education or the State Board of Education to the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission on July 1, 1968;

3. Vocational rehabilitation counselor which were completed while employed by the Department of Human Services if such counselor was certified as a teacher or was eligible for certification as a teacher in Oklahoma;

4. Certified teacher which were completed while employed by the Department of Human Services Child Study Center at University Hospital, if the teacher was certified as a teacher in Oklahoma; and

5. Certified school psychologist or psychometrist which were completed while employed as a doctoral intern, psychological assistant, or psychologist with any agency of the State of Oklahoma if the experience primarily involved work with persons of school- or preschool-age and if the person was, at the time the experience was

acquired, certified as, or eligible for certification as, a school psychologist or psychometrist.

F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to teachers who have entered into postretirement employment with a public school in Oklahoma and are still receiving a monthly retirement benefit.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

SECTION 4. 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 House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 5th day of April, 2016.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 20th

day of May, 2016, at 1:39 o'clock P M.

By: Audrey Rockwell

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 24th

day of May, 2016, at 1:05 o'clock P M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 24th

day of May, 2016, at 2:29 o'clock P. M.

By: Chris Benge