An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2679

By: Baker and West (Tammy) of the House

and

Rader, Thompson (Kristen), Bergstrom, Coleman, Stanley, Newhouse, Garvin, Pederson, and Daniels of the Senate

An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, which relates to the teacher certification pathways pilot program; modifying provider program requirements; updating statutory citation; requiring provider to submit certain annual report; modifying end date for pilot program; 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. 2021, Section 6-133, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-133. A. As used in this section:

1. "Provider" means an eligible entity that seeks or has obtained approval of an alternative teacher preparation program consistent with this section; and

2. "Program" means content provided by a provider that leads toward licensure in a specific content area.

B. The State Board of Education shall identify providers to implement new and innovative pathways toward teacher certification on a pilot program basis. Providers seeking to participate in the pilot program shall submit applications to the State Board of Education.

C. A provider chosen by the State Board of Education to participate in the pilot program shall offer a program that:

1. Provides evidence and history of fiscal solvency, capacity, operation, and program effectiveness;

2. Provides evidence of necessary infrastructure to provide accurate, timely, and secure data for the purpose of admission, teacher candidate monitoring, testing, and certification recommendations;

3. Has policies and procedures in place ensuring the security of teacher candidate records under applicable laws and regulations;

4. Has the instructional capacity ~~or~~ within an existing novice teacher support program, the ability to obtain the instructional capacity, or has established a partnership with an accredited higher education institution to provide adequate instruction in accordance with this subsection;

5. Offers an instructional phase that provides intensive preparation before the teacher candidates assume classroom responsibilities;

6. Offers a research-based and results-oriented approach focused on best teaching practices to increase student achievement and growth measured against state academic standards;

7. Provides assessment, supervision, and evaluation of teacher candidates to determine their specific needs throughout the program and to support efforts to successfully complete the program;

8. Provides intensive and ongoing professional development opportunities that accelerate a teacher candidate's professional growth, support student learning, and provide a workplace orientation, professional staff development, and mentoring;

9. Offers peer review focused on standards of professional practice and continuous professional growth; and

10. Provides a process to review a teacher candidate's final competency of required certification content standards that leads to a potential candidate being recommended for teacher certification in accordance with subsection F of this section.

D. The State Board of Education shall ensure that providers approved to participate in the pilot program allow teacher candidates to demonstrate pedagogy and content standard proficiency in school-based programs and through other nontraditional means. Nontraditional means may include, but not be limited to, previous work experience, teacher experience, educator evaluations, industry-recognized certifications, and other essentially equivalent demonstrations.

E. If the State Board of Education determines that a provider fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of this section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to remedy the deficiencies.

F. A teacher candidate that completes a program offered by an approved provider shall be eligible for certification, provided he or she meets the certification requirements set forth in Section 6-187 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title in the area of specialization for which certification is sought and is recommended for certification by the approved provider.

G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this section and who has 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. The person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the criminal history ~~records~~ record checks.

H. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of Education after one (1) year of operation showing the percentage of teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have successfully completed or who have failed the competency examinations for certification and the provider's efforts to help candidates successfully pass the examinations. A provider shall annually submit ~~evidence~~ a report to the State Department of

Education ~~after the pilot year with evidence of~~ outlining the success of the program.

I. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.

J. The pilot program created in this section shall end no later than July 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or 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 24th day of May, 2023.

Presiding Officer of the House

of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 25th day of May, 2023.

Brent Howard

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this 26th

day of May, 20 26, at 10:34 o'clock a. M.

By: June Berry

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this 7th

day of June, 20 23, at 3:38 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 7th

day of June, 20 23, at 5:15 o'clock P. M.

By: Brian Bingman