

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2679

By: Baker and West (Tammy) of
the House

3 and

4 Rader of the Senate
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7 An Act relating to teacher certification; amending 70
8 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, which relates to the
9 teacher certification pathways pilot program;
10 modifying provider program requirements; updating
11 statutory citation; requiring provider to submit
12 certain annual report; modifying end date for pilot
13 program; providing an effective date; and declaring
14 an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-133, is
17 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

24 B. The State Board of Education shall identify providers to
implement new and innovative pathways toward teacher certification

1 on a pilot program basis. Providers seeking to participate in the
2 pilot program shall submit applications to the State Board of
3 Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 E. If the State Board of Education determines that a provider
23 fails to meet or is deficient in any of the requirements of this
24 section, it may suspend or revoke the approval of the provider after

1 providing notification of the deficiencies and an opportunity to
2 remedy the deficiencies.

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

9 G. The State Board of Education shall issue a certificate to
10 teach to any person who meets the requirements set forth in this
11 section and who has on file with the Board a current Oklahoma
12 criminal history record check from the Oklahoma State Bureau of
13 Investigation as well as a national criminal history record check as
14 defined in Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The
15 person applying for the certificate shall be responsible for the
16 cost of the criminal history ~~records~~ record checks.

17 H. A provider shall submit a report to the State Department of
18 Education after one (1) year of operation showing the percentage of
19 teacher candidates who have completed the program and who have
20 successfully completed or who have failed the competency
21 examinations for certification and the provider's efforts to help
22 candidates successfully pass the examinations. A provider shall
23 annually submit ~~evidence~~ a report to the State Department of
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1 Education ~~after the pilot year with evidence of~~ outlining the
2 success of the program.

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

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

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

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

12 Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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17 Passed the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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