

SENATE BILL No. 198

By Committee on Education

2-1

AN ACT concerning teachers; providing for initial licensure upon completion of an alternate teacher preparation program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for administration and effectuation of the provisions of this act and, in accordance therewith, may issue an initial license to teach in this state to any person who successfully completes the alternate teacher preparation program.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Alternate teacher preparation program" means a program which is provided for by the state board of education and designed to ensure that a teacher licensure applicant has the basic knowledge and qualifications necessary to engage in the profession of teaching at an accredited school in this state.

(b) "Teacher licensure applicant" means a person who applies under authority of this act for an initial license to teach in this state.

Sec. 3. (a) The alternate teacher preparation program will require a teacher licensure applicant to complete:

(1) A 10 contact hour preservice orientation conducted by an employing accredited school prior to a classroom assignment. Orientation shall include familiarization with school policies, procedures, curriculum, instructional model, community characteristics, and resources; and

(2) an internship of two school years (four semesters) prescribed by the state board of education. At the successful completion of internship, student teaching requirements will be waived.

(b) During internship, a teacher licensure applicant will be supervised by a team of two persons consisting of a mentor teacher or national board certified teacher and the building principal from the accredited school employing the applicant. Guidelines for supervision will be provided by the state board of education. The supervisory team will meet no fewer than three times per school year to evaluate, consult with, and provide advice to the applicant. The last meeting of the first year of internship will result in a recommendation for discontinuation of the program or continuation for the second year of internship. Successful com-

1 pletion of the program will result in a recommendation for licensure.

2 Sec. 4. A teacher licensure applicant shall:

3 (a) Be the holder of a baccalaureate or higher degree, earned with a
4 minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, and
5 granted by an accredited college or university;

6 (b) have earned academic credits appropriate to meeting subject and
7 field requirements for licensure with an endorsement at the secondary
8 level for such subject or field or for licensure with an endorsement at the
9 elementary, middle or junior high level. The state board of education will
10 assure attainment by the applicant of the minimum semester hour
11 requirements for general education and subjects or fields of specializa-
12 tion. Minor deficiencies in the subject or field of specialization require-
13 ments may be satisfied through additional course work approved by the
14 state board of education;

15 (c) take and pass the national teacher examination core battery with
16 a composite score at or higher than the national mean score;

17 (d) apply for and receive from the state board of education a license
18 valid for one year and renewable for a second year upon successful com-
19 pletion of the first year of participation in the program and recommen-
20 dation by the supervisory team; and

21 (e) receive and document an offer of a teaching position at an ac-
22 credited Kansas school.

23 Sec. 5. Upon successful completion of the alternate teacher prepara-
24 tion program as verified by the employing accredited school, a teacher
25 licensure applicant may apply for licensure on a form provided by the
26 state board of education. The state board shall review the application and
27 the recommendation of the employing accredited school and shall grant
28 licensure, grant provisional licensure, or deny licensure. Successful com-
29 pletion of the alternate teacher preparation program will not entitle a
30 teacher licensure applicant to licensure with an endorsement in special
31 education subject areas or licensure at the elementary level other than in
32 the subjects or fields of specialization for which the applicant has met the
33 standards for endorsement.

34 Sec. 6. Upon completion of each school year, commencing with the
35 2004-05 school year, the state board of education shall make a report to
36 the legislature on the effectiveness of the alternate teacher preparation
37 program. The report shall include the following information:

38 (a) The number of accredited schools participating in the program;

39 (b) the number of persons who applied for employment as teacher
40 licensure applicants and the number of such applicants who actually were
41 employed;

42 (c) the number of persons who successfully completed the alternate
43 teacher preparation program, who were recommended for licensure, and

1 who were granted licenses;

2 (d) the quality of teachers granted licenses under this act;

3 (e) the rate of attrition of teachers granted licenses under this act as
4 compared with teachers who have completed a regular teacher prepara-
5 tion program; and

6 (f) the costs to the state of providing the alternate teacher preparation
7 program as compared with regular teacher preparation programs.

8 Sec. 7. The requirements and procedures contained in this act for
9 initial issuance of licenses to teach shall be deemed alternative to the
10 requirements and procedures therefor that are in effect under any other
11 provision of law and under rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto
12 by the state board of education.

13 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
14 publication in the Kansas register.

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