

SENATE BILL No. 157

By Senator Lyon

2-5

AN ACT concerning teachers; relating to teacher preparation programs.

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

Section 1. The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for the administration and effectuation of the provisions of this section and sections 2 through 7, and amendments thereto. In accordance with such rules and regulations, the board 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 sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto:

(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 sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto, 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

1 continuation for the second year of internship. Successful completion of
2 the program will result in a recommendation for licensure.

3 Sec. 4. A teacher licensure applicant shall:

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

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

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

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

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

24 (f) pay a fee approved by the state board of education as part of the
25 contractual arrangements with the employing accredited school, which
26 fee shall be in an amount determined by the board to be necessary for
27 payment of the costs of the program including, but not limited to, the
28 costs for remuneration of the principal and mentor teacher members of
29 the supervisory team. The applicant and employing accredited school
30 shall share equally in the costs for remuneration of the principal and
31 mentor teacher.

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

43 Sec. 6. Upon completion of each school year, commencing with the

1 2005-2006 school year, the state board of education shall make a report
2 to the legislature on the effectiveness of the alternate teacher preparation
3 program. The report shall include the following information:

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

5 (b) the number of persons who applied for employment as teacher
6 licensure applicants and the number of such applicants who actually were
7 employed;

8 (c) the number of persons who successfully completed the alternate
9 teacher preparation program, who were recommended for licensure, and
10 who were granted licenses;

11 (d) the quality of teachers granted licenses under sections 1 through
12 7, and amendments thereto;

13 (e) the rate of attrition of teachers granted licenses under sections 1
14 through 7, and amendments thereto, as compared with teachers who have
15 completed a regular teacher preparation program; and

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

18 Sec. 7. The requirements and procedures contained in sections 1
19 through 6, and amendments thereto, for initial issuance of licenses to
20 teach shall be deemed alternative to the requirements and procedures
21 therefor that are in effect under any other provision of law and under
22 rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the state board of
23 education.

24 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
25 publication in the statute book.

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