

HOUSE BILL No. 2903

By Committee on Education

2-14

9 AN ACT concerning teachers; relating to licensure thereof.

10

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

12 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

13 (1) "State board" means the state board of education.

14 (2) "School district teacher licensure program" or "program" means
15 a teacher licensure program established by a school district and approved
16 by the state board pursuant to this section.

17 (3) "Board of education" means the board of education of a school
18 district.

19 (4) "Postsecondary educational institution" and "private postsec-
20 ndary educational institution" have the meanings ascribed there to in
21 K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

22 (b) In order to fill vacancies that exist in teacher positions in the
23 school district, the board of education of a school district may adopt a
24 school district teacher licensure program under which a school district
25 may employ a person as a teacher even though such person does not hold
26 a license issued pursuant to the provisions of article 13 of chapter 72 of
27 the Kansas Statutes Annotated and any rules and regulations adopted
28 pursuant thereto. Except as provided by paragraph (3) of subsection (c),
29 no person may be employed under the program until the program has
30 been submitted to and approved by the state board. An application for
31 approval of a program shall be submitted in the form and manner re-
32 quired by the state board and shall:

33 (1) Identify the area of specific need of the district that requires the
34 hiring of persons who are not licensed by the board under article 13 of
35 chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;

36 (2) describe a program of support for persons employed under the
37 program in order to provide such persons with the skills and knowledge
38 required for the effective delivery of instructional curriculum. The pro-
39 gram of support may be provided by the school district or by a service
40 center, school district cooperative or interlocal, postsecondary educa-
41 tional institution, private postsecondary educational institution or by an-
42 other service provider selected by the school district; and

43 (3) include any other information required by the state board.

1 (c) (1) If the state board approves an application submitted pursuant
2 to this section, the state board may issue a district license to a person
3 employed under the provisions of the program if such person: (A) Holds
4 a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university;
5 and (B) has met the requirements of K.S.A. 72-1397, and amendments
6 thereto.

7 (2) If an application for the approval of a school district teacher li-
8 censure program is not approved by the state board, the state board shall
9 identify the deficiencies in the application and shall allow the school dis-
10 trict to correct such deficiencies. The school district may amend and
11 resubmit its application.

12 (3) The state board either shall approve or deny an application sub-
13 mitted pursuant to this section within 20 calendar days of receipt of the
14 application. While the application is awaiting action by the state board,
15 persons may begin teaching immediately as unlicensed substitute
16 teachers.

17 (d) No person may be employed by a school district without first
18 submitting to the board of education such person's fingerprints for the
19 purposes of verifying the identity of such person and obtaining records
20 of criminal arrests and convictions. The board of education may fix and
21 collect a fee as may be required by the board in an amount necessary to
22 reimburse the board for the cost of fingerprinting and the criminal history
23 record check. Any moneys collected under this subsection shall be de-
24 posited in the general fund of the district and shall be considered reim-
25 bursements for the purpose of the school district finance and quality
26 performance act.

27 (e) (1) A district license shall be valid for three years. A district license
28 shall be valid only in the school district in which the program was com-
29 pleted. Except as provided in this section, a person who is issued a district
30 license shall have the same responsibilities and rights as a teacher issued
31 a license under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1388, and amendments
32 thereto, and any rules and regulations adopted by the state board of ed-
33 ucation pursuant thereto.

34 (2) Persons who are issued a district license under this section also
35 shall be eligible for a restricted license issued pursuant to rules and reg-
36 ulations adopted by the state board.

37 (f) School districts employing persons holding district licenses shall
38 submit reports relating thereto as required by the state board of
39 education.

40 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
41 publication in the statute book.