

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2371

By: Coody (Ann) of the House  
and  
Barrington of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011,  
8 Section 6-182, as last amended by Section 9, Chapter  
9 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 6-182),  
10 which relates to the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act  
11 definitions; modifying definition of a mentor  
12 teacher; providing an effective date; and declaring  
13 an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 6-182, as  
16 last amended by Section 9, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp.  
17 2015, Section 6-182), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 6-182. As used in the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act:

19 1. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

20 2. "Commission" means the Commission for Educational Quality  
21 and Accountability;

22 3. "State Regents" means the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
23 Education;

24 4. "Professional development program" means the program  
mandated by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for the continuous

1 improvement and enrichment of the certified and licensed teachers of  
2 this state;

3 5. "Teacher education professional development committee" means  
4 the committee created in Section 6-186 of this title for the  
5 continuous improvement and enrichment of higher education faculty in  
6 teacher education programs in institutions of higher education;

7 6. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

8 7. "Residency committee" means a committee in a school district  
9 for the purpose of providing professional support, mentorship and  
10 coaching to the resident teacher. A residency committee may consist  
11 of one or more mentor teachers, the principal or an assistant  
12 principal of the employing school, one or more administrators  
13 designated by the school district board of education, a teacher  
14 educator in a college or school of education of an institution of  
15 higher education or an educator in a department or school outside  
16 the institution's teacher education unit. If possible, qualified  
17 mentor teachers shall have expertise in the teaching field of the  
18 resident teacher and, if possible, the higher education members of  
19 the residency committee shall have expertise and experience in the  
20 teaching field of the resident teacher. However, in all cases, at  
21 least one member of the residency committee shall have expertise and  
22 experience in the teaching field of the resident teacher;

23 8. "Teacher" means a person defined as a teacher in Section 1-  
24 116 of this title;

1           9. "Resident teacher" means any certified teacher who is  
2 employed in an accredited school to serve as a teacher and the  
3 school district has elected to place under the guidance and  
4 assistance of a mentor teacher and residency committee. The  
5 resident teacher shall have completed the program of the college or  
6 school of education of the accredited institution of higher  
7 education from which the person has been graduated, and shall have  
8 successfully completed the competency examination in areas of  
9 approval in which the resident teacher seeks certification;

10           10. "Certified teacher" means any teacher who has been issued a  
11 certificate by the Board in accordance with the Oklahoma Teacher  
12 Preparation Act and the rules of the Board;

13           11. "Mentor teacher" means any teacher ~~holding a standard~~  
14 ~~certificate who is employed in a school district to serve as a~~  
15 ~~teacher and~~ who has been appointed to provide guidance, support,  
16 coaching and assistance to a resident teacher employed by the school  
17 district. A mentor teacher shall be a current or former classroom  
18 teacher and have a minimum of two (2) years of classroom teaching  
19 experience as a certified teacher.

20           A mentor teacher shall be selected by the principal from a list  
21 of qualified teacher volunteers who have submitted their names for  
22 that purpose. After compilation of the list, the principal shall  
23 provide opportunity for input from the bargaining agent, where one  
24 exists. Membership or nonmembership in a professional teacher

1 organization shall not be considered as a factor in selecting a  
2 mentor teacher. When possible, a mentor teacher shall have  
3 successfully completed a mentor teacher professional development  
4 institute ~~and be assigned to the same school site~~ and have similar  
5 certification as the resident teacher;

6 12. "Higher education faculty" means any individual who is  
7 employed in a teaching capacity in an institution of higher  
8 education, approved or accredited by the Commission for the  
9 preparation of education personnel; and

10 13. "Competency examination" means the assessment required in  
11 the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act for certification as a teacher  
12 and shall consist of tests over general education, professional  
13 education and subject areas as defined by the Commission for  
14 Educational Quality and Accountability.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

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

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