

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

4   HOUSE BILL 3544

                                  By: Talley

7                                   AS INTRODUCED

8           An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2021,  
9           Section 405.4, which relates to master teachers;  
10          providing that director may qualify as master  
11          teacher; allowing directors to be eligible for  
12          probationary periods; providing who shall be  
13          considered a master teacher; clarifying when  
14          probationary period applies; providing that certain  
15          persons shall have the authority of master teachers;  
16          providing instructions on how to determine number of  
17          master teachers for Stars compliance; providing  
18          standard by which to determine enrollment; providing  
19          for codification; providing an effective date; and  
20          declaring an emergency.

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

22           SECTION 1.        AMENDATORY        10 O.S. 2021, Section 405.4, is  
23           amended to read as follows:

24           Section 405.4   A.   Any person with a bachelor's degree or  
            postgraduate degree shall be considered as having met the  
            educational requirements for a director of a full-time child care  
            center required by the Department of Human Services.  Nothing in  
            this section shall be construed as to affect annual continuing

1 education requirements. The director of a child care center may  
2 also qualify as a master teacher when meeting the master teacher  
3 qualifications. Directors qualifying as master teachers are  
4 eligible for probationary periods.

5 B. Any person with an associate's degree, bachelor's degree,  
6 postgraduate degree, or two (2) years of experience in a  
7 professional child care setting or related educational field shall  
8 be considered as having met the educational requirements for a  
9 master teacher for children of all ages. Nothing in this section  
10 shall be construed as to affect annual continuing education  
11 requirements.

12 ~~B.~~ C. Any person replacing a master teacher at a child care  
13 center, including newer and expanding child care centers, shall be  
14 granted a one-year probationary period to fulfill the educational  
15 qualifications required by the Department for a master teacher.  
16 During the probationary period, the person pursuing the educational  
17 qualifications needed for master teacher shall carry the full  
18 authority of a master teacher. The Department may extend the  
19 probationary period an additional year as long as the person is  
20 actively pursuing that goal.

21 ~~C.~~ D. Licensed child care facilities opened or expanded before  
22 November 1, 2016, shall have thirty-five (35) square feet of floor  
23 area per infant in rooms occupied only by infants. New construction  
24 and existing space not previously licensed for child care after

1 November 1, 2016, shall have forty (40) square feet of floor area  
2 per infant in rooms occupied only by infants.

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 426 of Title 10, unless there is  
5 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The number of master teachers required for Reaching for the  
7 Stars program compliance shall be based on the number of children  
8 enrolled in the child care center. For purposes of this section,  
9 enrollment shall be determined by rounding to the nearest whole  
10 number according to standard mathematical practices.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

12 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/13/2024  
18 - DO PASS.

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