

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

As Engrossed: H3/28/03 H4/1/03

# A Bill

Act 1745 of 2003  
HOUSE BILL 2062

5 By: Representatives C. Johnson, White  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 EDUCATION AN OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TEACHER  
10 RECRUITMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO CREATE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT  
13 OF EDUCATION AN OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE  
14 OF TEACHER RECRUITMENT.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. (a)(1) There is established within the Department of  
22 Education, an office for the purpose of teacher recruitment for ensuring that  
23 the children of our state are taught by highly qualified professionals.

24 (2) The office shall serve as an interagency center focused on  
25 teacher recruitment and retention.

26 (b) The office shall have the following duties:

27 (1) To develop, disseminate, and distribute written materials  
28 and video productions, on the importance of teaching as a profession,  
29 emphasizing the critical need for teachers in certain geographical areas of  
30 the state, and the availability of financial scholarships to college students  
31 in exchange for service as a licensed teacher in the geographical critical  
32 need area, as identified by the Department of Education to assist the  
33 Department of Higher Education;

34 (2) To encourage teacher's aides and paraprofessionals in the  
35 public schools to pursue a college education that will enable them to become  
36 licensed teachers, and informing all assistant teachers of the availability



1 of financial scholarships to both full-time and part-time college students  
2 under the state Academic Challenge Scholarship Programs;

3 (3) To actively recruit, both within the state and out-of-state,  
4 teachers to render service to the state as a licensed teacher in a  
5 geographical area of the state, or subject matter area where there exists a  
6 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education,  
7 while receiving a scholarship to pursue a Master of Education degree at an  
8 institution of higher education under the University Assisted Teacher  
9 Recruitment and Retention Grant Program;

10 (4) To actively recruit, both within the state and out-of-state,  
11 nonpracticing licensed teachers to return to the teaching profession to  
12 render service as a licensed teacher in a public school district in a  
13 geographical area of the state, and a subject matter area where there is a  
14 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education;

15 (5) To recruit retired teachers who are willing to teach either  
16 full time or part time in public school programs; and

17 (6) To notify teachers of the availability of incentives  
18 including, but not limited to, *forgivable loans, scholarships,* for persons  
19 who render service to the state as a licensed teacher in a geographical area  
20 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers in a subject  
21 matter area experiencing a shortage of teachers as designated by the State  
22 Board of Education.

23 (c) The office shall also provide leadership for the following  
24 initiatives:

25 (1) The initiation and monitoring of high school programs for  
26 teacher recruitment;

27 (2) The initiation and monitoring of college level programs for  
28 teacher recruitment;

29 (3) Provide additional scholarships for any *targeted populations*  
30 or *geographical areas of the state* needing potential teachers;

31 (4) Provide assistance to local school districts in identifying  
32 and locating specific teacher needs;

33 (5) Provide leadership and assistance to schools for developing  
34 Teachers of Tomorrow programs and future teacher clubs;

35 (6) Coordinate an annual teacher recruitment conference;

36 (7) Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects.

1 (8) Assist two-year colleges with developing articulation  
2 agreements with four-year colleges to coordinate programs for students  
3 interested in entering the field of teaching;

4 (9) Coordinate teacher recruitment and retention activities with  
5 the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

6 (d) By June 30, 2004 and annually thereafter, the Department of  
7 Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the House Interim  
8 Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

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10 /s/ C. Johnson, et al

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13 APPROVED: 4/22/2003  
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