

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

As Engrossed: H12/16/03
A Bill

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL 1040

5 By: Representative Elliott
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE EXTRAORDINARY INCENTIVES FOR
10 TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IN HIGH-POVERTY
11 DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO PROVIDE EXTRAORDINARY
14 INCENTIVES FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND
15 RETENTION IN HIGH-POVERTY DISTRICTS.
16
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 8 is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-17-8. Incentives for teacher recruitment and retention in high-
24 poverty districts.

25 (a)(1) For purposes of this section "high-poverty area" means an area
26 of the state in which seventy-five percent (75%) or more of public school
27 students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program under the
28 National School Lunch Act.

29 (2) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to
30 determine high-poverty areas of the state.

31 (b) Beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, a teacher licensed by the
32 state board who teaches in a high-poverty area shall receive in addition to
33 all other salary and benefits:

34 (1) A bonus of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be paid at the
35 time the teacher signs a contract to teach in a high poverty area;

36 (2) Five (5) days of paid vacation to be awarded at the end of



1 each school year;

2 (3) Fully-paid health and dental insurance for the teacher and
3 the teacher's immediate family members; and

4 (4) A monthly allowance at the federal Internal Revenue Service
5 reimbursement rate for travel, as in effect on January 1, 2004, to pay for
6 two-way travel from the teacher's residence to a high-poverty area school at
7 which the teacher is employed.

8 (c) The school board of any school district in a high-poverty area may
9 reimburse at the federal Internal Revenue Service reimbursement rate for
10 travel, as in effect on January 1, 2004, any person who interviews for
11 employment as a licensed teacher with the district, for the mileage and other
12 actual expenses incurred by the person in the course of travel to and from
13 the interview.

14 (d)(1) The state board shall promulgate rules to reimburse state-
15 licensed teachers for the expense of moving if the employment necessitates
16 the relocation of the teacher to a high-poverty area.

17 (2) The expense reimbursement shall be allowed for both in-state
18 and out-of-state teachers who enter into a contract for employment in a
19 school district situated in a high-poverty area.

20 (3) To be eligible for the reimbursement, the teacher shall
21 apply to the local district, and the district shall obtain approval from the
22 Department of Education for reimbursement before the relocation occurs.

23 (4)(A) If the reimbursement is approved, the department shall
24 provide funds to the school district to reimburse the teacher in an amount
25 not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for the documented actual
26 expenses incurred in the course of relocating.

27 (B) Allowable expenses shall include:

28 (i) The expense of any professional moving company
29 or persons employed to assist with the move;

30 (ii) Rented moving vehicles or equipment;

31 (iii) Mileage in the amount authorized for state
32 employees if the teacher used a personal vehicle or vehicles for the move;

33 (iv) Meals; and

34 (v) Other expenses associated with the relocation in
35 accordance with the department's established rules and regulations.

36 (5)(A) Nothing in this subsection (d) requires the actual

1 residence to which the teacher relocates to be within the boundaries of the
2 school district which has executed a contract for employment with the
3 teacher, or within the boundaries of the area designated by the state board
4 as a high-poverty area for the teacher to be eligible for reimbursement for
5 moving expenses.

6 (B) However, to be reimbursed under this subsection (d),
7 teachers shall relocate within the State of Arkansas.

8
9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 26, Chapter 51, Subchapter 5 is amended
10 to add an additional section to read as follows:

11 26-51-512. Teachers in high-poverty area.

12 (a)(1) For purposes of this section "high-poverty area" means an area
13 of the state in which seventy-five (75%) percent or more of public school
14 students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program under the
15 National School Lunch Act.

16 (b) A credit shall be allowed against the income tax imposed by the
17 Arkansas Income Tax Act of 1929, § 26-51-101, et seq., to a teacher teaching
18 in a high-poverty area.

19 (1) For the first school year that a teacher teaches in a high-
20 poverty area, the credit is two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

21 (2) For the second school year that a teacher teaches in a high-
22 poverty district, the credit is three thousand dollars (\$3,000)

23 (3) For the third school year that a teacher teaches in a high-
24 poverty area, the credit is four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

25 (4) For the fourth year and subsequent years that a teacher
26 teaches in a high-poverty area, the credit is five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

27 (c) This section applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1,
28 2004 and expires December 31, 2015.

29 (d) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration shall
30 promulgate rules necessary to implement this tax credit.

31
32
33 /s/ Elliott
34
35
36