

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

Call Item 4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1079

5 By: Representative Cleveland
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE STATE TEACHER ASSISTANCE
10 RESOURCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE STATE TEACHER
13 ASSISTANCE RESOURCE PROGRAM.
14
15
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1502 is amended to read as follows:
20 6-81-1502. Definitions.

21 For purposes of this subchapter:

22 (1) "Two-year teacher education program" means a program within
23 a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas that will
24 introduce students to the profession of teaching;

25 ~~(1)~~(2) "Five-year teacher education program" means a program
26 within a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas
27 that will lead to obtaining a teacher certification and is designed for
28 completion in five (5) years with an award of a master's degree in education;
29 ~~and~~

30 ~~(2)~~(3) "Four-year teacher education program" means a program
31 within a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas
32 that will lead to obtaining a teacher certification and is designed for
33 completion in four (4) years with an award of a baccalaureate degree in
34 education; ~~and~~

35 (4)(A) "Master of Arts in Teaching" means a program within a
36 regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas that will



1 allow graduate students to teach in a middle or secondary school while
2 obtaining licensure.

3 (B) "Master of Arts in Teaching" shall include persons who
4 are licensed in Arkansas through a program of nontraditional licensure.

5
6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(b), concerning administration of
7 and authority of the Department of Higher Education, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 (b) The department shall adopt standards for awarding the forgivable
10 loans to ensure that ~~only~~ students in their sophomore, junior, year-and-or
11 senior year who are actively pursuing a degree in teaching or are admitted to
12 a teacher education program or are enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching
13 program with the best potential for success receive a forgivable loan.

14
15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(e), concerning administration of
16 and authority of the Department of Higher Education, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 (e) The department may determine the necessary procedures for the
19 awarding of forgivable loans should the number of eligible applicants and
20 recipients exceed the funds available, but priority consideration shall be
21 given based on a combination of factors including, but not limited to:

- 22 (1) Full-time enrollment;
- 23 (2) Cumulative grade point average;
- 24 (3) Grade point average in courses required for the major;
- 25 (4) Subject area of intended teaching licensure;
- 26 (5) Geographical area in which the applicant or recipient
27 intends to teach;

28 (6)(A) Prior loan awards.

29 (B) Prior recipients who remain qualified shall receive
30 priority for future awards;

31 (7) Students enrolled in two-year teacher education programs;
32 and

33 (8) Students enrolled in Master of Arts in Teaching programs.

34
35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1505 is amended to read as follows:
36 6-81-1505. Eligibility.

1 A student entering his or her sophomore, junior, or senior year and
 2 actively pursuing or admitted to a teacher education program shall be eligible
 3 to receive a forgivable loan under the State Teacher Assistance Resource
 4 Program if:

5 (1) The recipient earns a cumulative grade point average of 2.75
 6 or above on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution;

7 (2) The recipient has completed ~~a total of at least twenty-seven~~
 8 ~~(27) hours during the first full academic year and a total of at least thirty~~
 9 ~~(30) hours per academic year thereafter~~ at least one (1) year of full-time
 10 postsecondary course work;

11 (3) The student is entering the junior year and has taken the
 12 standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and

13 (4) The recipient meets any other continuing eligibility
 14 criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

15
 16 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1506(a), concerning the duration,
 17 amount, and repayment of STAR loans, is amended to read as follows:

18 (a)(1) The State Teacher Assistance Resource Program shall be used to
 19 provide:

20 (A) ~~A two-year forgivable loan if the recipient is in a~~
 21 ~~four-year teacher education program, or a three-year forgivable loan if the~~
 22 ~~recipient is in a five-year teacher education program,~~ in the amount of three
 23 thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year for a sophomore, junior, or senior
 24 actively pursuing a degree in teaching or admitted to a teacher education
 25 program or enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program who commits to
 26 teach in a public school located in a geographical area of the state
 27 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers or in a subject matter
 28 area designated as having a critical shortage of teachers;

29 (B) A two-year forgivable loan if the recipient is in a
 30 four-year teacher education program, or a three-year forgivable loan if the
 31 recipient is in a five-year teacher education program, in the amount of six
 32 thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for a junior or senior admitted to a
 33 teacher education program who commits to teach in a public school located in
 34 a geographical area of the state designated as having a shortage of critical
 35 teachers and in a subject matter area designated as having a critical
 36 shortage of teachers;

1 (C) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the
2 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year for each year a certified
3 teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004
4 teaches in a public school located in a geographical area of the state
5 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers; or

6 (D) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the
7 amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for each year a certified
8 teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004
9 teaches in a public school located in a geographical area of the state
10 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers and in a subject matter
11 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers.

12 (2) The Department of Education shall set the term of the loan
13 with the goal of assisting the recipient to complete the recipient's teacher
14 education program.

15 ~~(2)(3)~~ No person receiving a forgivable loan under subdivisions
16 (a)(1)(A) or (B) of this section shall be eligible to receive a loan
17 repayment under subdivisions (a)(1)(C) or (D) of this section.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36