

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

As Engrossed: H1/27/04
A Bill

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL 1080

5 By: Representative C. Johnson
6 By: Senator Wilkins
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8

9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND FOCUS OF THE
11 OFFICE FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT WITHIN THE
12 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND FOCUS OF
16 THE OFFICE FOR TEACHER RECRUITMENT
17 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-310 is amended to read as follows:

23 6-17-310. Office for the purpose of teacher recruitment.

24 (a)(1) There is established within the Department of Education an
25 office for the purpose of teacher recruitment for ensuring that the children
26 of our state are taught by highly qualified professionals.

27 (2) The office ~~shall~~ may serve as an interagency center focused
28 on teacher recruitment ~~and retention~~.

29 (b) The office ~~shall~~ may have the following duties:

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



1 (2) To encourage teachers' aides and paraprofessionals in the
 2 public schools to pursue a college education that will enable them to become
 3 licensed teachers, and to inform all assistant teachers of the availability
 4 of financial scholarships to both full-time and part-time college students
 5 under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program;

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

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

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

20 (6) To notify teachers of the availability of incentives,
 21 including, but not limited to, forgivable loans and scholarships for persons
 22 who render service to the state as licensed teachers in a geographical area
 23 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers in a subject-
 24 matter area, as designated by the board; and

25 (7) Develop a statewide database for tracking Arkansas' educator
 26 workforce to give the state the ability it currently lacks in tracking
 27 Arkansas' ongoing process toward increasing the number of well-prepared and
 28 highly-skilled teachers in high-poverty and high-priority schools or
 29 districts.

30 (c) The office ~~shall~~ may also provide leadership for the following
 31 initiatives:

32 (1) Initiate and monitor high school programs for teacher
 33 recruitment;

34 (2) Initiate and monitor college-level programs for teacher
 35 recruitment;

36 (3)(A) Facilitating articulation agreements between two-year

1 colleges and four-year higher education institutions to capitalize on the
2 associates of arts candidates of two-year campuses for the purpose of
3 recruiting candidates from underrepresented minorities.

4 (B) The Department of Higher Education may assist the
5 office with the measure implemented under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this
6 section;

7 (4) Develop a plan to provide financial rewards to colleges and
8 universities that prepare teachers and administrators from underrepresented
9 minorities as well as teachers and administrators who teach in geographical
10 areas of the state with a shortage of teachers or subject-matter areas with a
11 shortage of teachers, or both;

12 ~~(3)~~(5) Provide additional scholarships for any targeted
13 populations or geographical areas of the state needing potential teachers;

14 ~~(4)~~(6) Provide assistance to local school districts in
15 identifying and locating specific teacher needs;

16 ~~(5)~~(7) Provide leadership and assistance to schools for
17 developing Teachers of Tomorrow programs and future teacher clubs;

18 ~~(6)~~(8) Coordinate an annual teacher-recruitment conference;

19 ~~(7)~~(9) Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects;

20 ~~(8)~~ Assist two-year colleges with developing articulation
21 agreements with four-year colleges to coordinate programs for students
22 interested in entering the field of teaching; and

23 ~~(9)~~(10) Coordinate teacher recruitment and retention activities
24 with the Department of Higher Education-;

25 (11) Develop programs to provide incentives to high-priority
26 schools or districts to encourage changes in teaching and learning
27 environments, to help prevent high-quality teachers from leaving for other
28 schools and to create the instructional environments that give all students
29 the opportunity to achieve high academic standards;

30 (12) Develop programs to promote innovative partnerships between
31 schools and health and social service agencies to ensure that students'
32 noneducational needs are addressed through appropriate and effective
33 mechanisms that do not become barriers to teaching and learning; and

34 (13) Develop programs to promote partnerships between teachers
35 and education programs and grades prekindergarten through twelve (preK-12)
36 school districts with emphasis on partnerships that prepare teachers and

1 administrators to work in high-priority schools or districts.

2 (d) The Department of Education may develop a supplemental funding
3 program to be known as the "High-Priority Teacher Recruitment Program" that:

4 (1) Provides financial rewards to colleges and universities that
5 prepare teachers and administrators from underrepresented minorities as well
6 as teachers and administrators who teach in high-priority schools or school
7 districts, or both;

8 (2) Provides incentives to high-priority schools or districts to
9 encourage changes in teaching and learning environments, to help prevent
10 high-quality teachers from leaving for other schools and to create the
11 instructional environments that give all students the opportunity to achieve
12 high academic standards;

13 (3) Fund innovative partnerships between schools and health and
14 social service agencies to ensure that students' noneducational needs are
15 addressed through appropriate and effective mechanisms that do not become
16 barriers to teaching and learning; and

17 (4) Fund partnerships between teacher education programs and
18 grades prekindergarten through twelve (preK-12) school districts with
19 emphasis on partnerships that prepare teachers and administrators to work in
20 high-priority schools or districts.

21 (e) For purposes of this section, a "high-priority school or district"
22 means a school or school district with:

23 (1) Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of its students scoring
24 below-proficient on fourth grade or eighth grade benchmark exams in the two
25 (2) immediately preceding school years; or

26 (2) Unacceptably wide achievement gaps as determined by the
27 Department of Education in conjunction with the Committee on Closing the
28 Achievement Gap in Arkansas.

29 ~~(d)~~(f) By June 30, 2004 and annually thereafter, the Department of
30 Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the House Interim
31 Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education
32 regarding the activities of the office and the progress made in improving
33 teacher recruitment.

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35 /s/ C. Johnson
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