

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

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1133

5 By: Representative Mahony  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S  
10 AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE  
11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF TEACHER RECRUITMENT; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
16 EDUCATION'S AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO  
17 ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE  
18 OF TEACHER RECRUITMENT.  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-310 is amended to read as follows:  
24 6-17-310. Office for the purpose of teacher recruitment.

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

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

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

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



1 Department of Higher Education;

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (1) Initiate and monitor high school programs for teacher  
 29 recruitment;

30 (2) Initiate and monitor college-level programs for teacher  
 31 recruitment;

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

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

36 (5) Provide leadership and assistance to schools for developing

1 Teachers of Tomorrow programs and future teacher clubs;

2 (6) Coordinate an annual teacher-recruitment conference;

3 (7) Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects;

4 (8) Assist two-year colleges with developing articulation  
5 agreements with four-year colleges to coordinate programs for students  
6 interested in entering the field of teaching; and

7 (9) Coordinate teacher recruitment and retention activities with  
8 the Department of Higher Education.

9 ~~(d) By June 30, 2004 and annually thereafter, the Department of~~  
10 ~~Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the House Interim~~  
11 ~~Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.~~

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36