

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 416 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/24/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 328

5 By: Senators A. Clark, J. English, Hester
6 By: Representatives C. Douglas, Gates, Cozart
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON *WHO APPLIES* FOR AN
10 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION K-6 TEACHING LICENSE OR A
11 SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO
12 SUCCESSFULLY PASS A STAND-ALONE READING TEST AND A
13 MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

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17
18 TO REQUIRE A PERSON *WHO APPLIES* FOR A K-6
19 TEACHING LICENSE OR A SPECIAL EDUCATION
20 K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO SUCCESSFULLY
21 PASS A STAND-ALONE READING TEST AND A
22 MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A CONDITION OF
23 LICENSURE.
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-17-402 and 6-17-403 are amended to read
29 as follows:

30 6-17-402. Rules ~~and regulations~~.

31 (a) The State Board of Education shall issue the license of a
32 classroom teacher, an administrator, a guidance counselor, or a library media
33 specialist.

34 (b)(1) The ~~State Board of Education~~ state board shall promulgate rules
35 ~~and regulations~~ for the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
36 licensure of teachers in the public schools of this state.



1 (2)(A) In addition to other requirements, ~~any~~:

2 (i) A person applying for ~~initial~~ first-time
3 licensure as a ~~secondary level~~ teacher or ~~as an~~ administrator in the public
4 schools or a licensed ~~secondary level~~ teacher, a licensed elementary general
5 education teacher, or ~~an~~ administrator applying for a license in an
6 additional area shall take and complete a test ~~recognized by the National~~
7 ~~Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education~~ and approved by the State
8 Board of Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education; and

9 (ii)(a) A person applying for first-time licensure
10 for an elementary education (K-6) license or a special education (K-12)
11 license shall take and pass a:

12 (1) Subject matter content assessment;

13 (2) Pedagogy assessment; and

14 (3) Stand-alone assessment that examines
15 the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading
16 instruction based on the science of reading.

17 (b) The requirements under subdivision
18 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section shall apply to a person who:

19 (1) Enters a teacher preparation program
20 beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter for a first-time
21 elementary level K-6 license or special education K-12 license or
22 endorsement; and

23 (2) Upon adoption of the stand-alone
24 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section, is
25 seeking to add the elementary education (K-6) license level by testing out.

26 (c) A person who enters an alternative
27 educator preparation program beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year and
28 receives an elementary education (K-6) provisional license or a special
29 education (K-12) provisional license shall take and pass the stand-alone
30 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section in
31 order to receive a standard license.

32 (d)(1) The recommendation for the adoption of
33 a stand-alone reading assessment shall be made by a diverse group of
34 stakeholders.

35 (2) The stakeholders shall recommend a
36 testing company for the stand-alone reading assessment that provides an

1 extensive practice test that enables prospective teachers to practice the
2 kinds of skills taught in their teacher preparation programs so they can
3 learn how to teach reading skills and diagnose reading problems.

4 (e) The stand-alone reading assessment adopted
5 by the state board shall:

6 (1) Include an adequate number of
7 assessment items to ensure instructional knowledge of reading that is based
8 on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

9 (2) Ensure that at least fifty percent
10 (50%) of the items assess instructional knowledge for beginning reading and
11 are based on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

12 (3) Include at least one (1) open-
13 response question so that test takers can indicate how well they can
14 demonstrate in writing their diagnostic interpretation of student reading
15 errors; and

16 (4) Include a clear distinction between
17 reading elements in and skills needed for literary and formation texts in
18 order to address the English language arts standards as determined by the
19 state board.

20 (f) The state board shall determine the cut
21 score for the stand-alone reading assessment with strong consideration based
22 on the national mean if the national mean is not less than seventy percent
23 (70%) correct answers on the stand-alone reading assessment.

24 (B) ~~No~~ An applicant for initial licensure or licensure in
25 an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless the
26 applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of
27 Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional
28 Licensure Standards Board.

29 ~~All colleges and universities in this state~~ The
30 teacher preparation programs for licensure in this state shall report the
31 results of the examinations to the department upon request.

32 (c) The State Board of Education shall not delegate to ~~any~~ a college
33 or university any of the State Board of Education's powers or duties
34 pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
35 licensure of teachers in public schools in this state.

36 (d)(1) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination

1 requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an individual applying
2 for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-state teaching
3 license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by
4 the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

5 (2) A teacher who has fewer than three (3) years' documented
6 teaching experience shall have up to three (3) years to pass the stand-alone
7 reading assessment, during which the teacher may work under a provisional
8 license.

9
10 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in
11 other states.

12 (a) The State Board of Education may issue a one-year nonrenewable
13 provisional license to any teacher who seeks Arkansas licensure and is
14 trained in and licensed by a state other than Arkansas if the teacher has
15 been in good standing during the most recent three (3) years of teaching in
16 another state.

17 (b)(1) ~~Any~~ A person who has not successfully completed the licensure
18 ~~examination designated by the state board tests required~~ under ~~§ 6-17-601 et~~
19 ~~seq. § 6-17-402~~ and who has not previously held an Arkansas standard license
20 but meets degree, course work, and experience requirements for a standard
21 license and who otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this
22 state may receive a ~~one-year~~ three-year nonrenewable provisional license and
23 be employed by any public school district in this state for a period not to
24 exceed ~~one (1) year~~ three (3) years while completing the professional
25 development, coursework, or training necessary to successfully pass the
26 stand-alone reading assessment under § 6-17-402.

27 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
28 successfully completed the ~~examination~~ licensure tests required under § 6-17-
29 402 shall not be penalized by the state board provided that the length of
30 employment of the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

31 (c) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license
32 to an individual who furnishes to the Department of Education proof of the
33 following:

34 (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas
35 equivalent that:

36 (A) Was issued in another state; and

1 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent ~~two~~
2 ~~(2)~~ three (3) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

3 (2) Successful completion of the criminal records checks and
4 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;

5 (3) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at
6 least a baccalaureate degree;

7 ~~(4) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~
8 ~~licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented~~
9 ~~teaching experience~~ Successful completion of the licensure tests required
10 under § 6-17-402;

11 (5) Completion of a program for:

12 (A) Teacher education at a nationally or regionally
13 accredited institution of higher education;

14 (B) Teacher education nationally accredited by an
15 accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
16 Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or the Council for
17 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

18 (C) Certification from the National Board for Professional
19 Teaching Standards; and

20 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

21
22 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(2), concerning nontraditional
23 teacher licensure, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
24 follows:

25 (C) Successfully completed the licensure tests required
26 under § 6-17-402.

27
28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and
29 confidentiality of test scores, is amended to read as follows:

30 (a)(1) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of this~~
31 subchapter and § 6-17-402 shall not be disclosed but shall be retained by the
32 Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the Freedom of
33 Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act ~~which~~ that
34 would require the disclosure thereof.

35 (2) However, the department shall provide each licensee with
36 that person's test score and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of

1 the test.

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/s/A. Clark

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APPROVED: 03/07/2017

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