

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S1/26/21 S2/24/21

2 93rd General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 62

4

5 By: Senator Irvin

6 By: Representative Vaught

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE

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CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO READ ACT; AND FOR OTHER

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PURPOSES.

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Subtitle

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TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE

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CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO READ ACT.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(d), concerning the Right to Read

22 Act, is amended to read as follows:

23 (d)(1) By the beginning of the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024 school year:

24 (A)(i) All teachers employed in a classroom teaching

25 position that requires ~~an elementary education (K-6) license or special~~

26 ~~education (K-12) license~~ a license to teach elementary students in grades

27 kindergarten through six (K-6) or a license to teach special education for

28 students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) shall demonstrate

29 proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction;

30 ~~and.~~

31 (ii) A teacher described in subdivision (d)(1)(A)(i)

32 of this section who has not demonstrated proficiency by the 2023-2024 school

33 year may be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by being

34 placed in an intensive support status under § 6-17-2807 for a period of time

35 specified by the teacher's evaluator in the professional growth plan for the

36 teacher; and



1 (B) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in
2 knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction.

3 (2) All teachers who begin employment in the ~~2021-2022~~ 2023-2024
4 school year and each following school year ~~thereafter~~ shall demonstrate
5 proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices ~~in~~ of scientific reading
6 instruction as is applicable to their teaching position by completing the
7 prescribed proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of ~~the~~
8 scientific reading instruction credential either:

9 (A) As a condition of licensure; or

10 (B) Within one (1) year if the teacher is:

11 (i) Already licensed; or

12 (ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.

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15 /s/Irvin

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18 **APPROVED: 3/25/21**
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