

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Room 171, State Capitol**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Jimmy Jeffress, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jimmy Jeffress, Chair; Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Vice Chair; and Senator Johnny Key.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Duncan Baird; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Ann Clemmer; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Jane English; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative James McLean; and Representative Randy Stewart.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative John Catlett; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Homer Lenderman; and Representative Kelley Linck.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Paul Bookout; Senator Mike Fletcher; Senator Bill Sample; Representative Tommy Lee Baker; Representative Nate Bell; Representative David Branscum; Representative John Burris; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Mike Patterson; and Representative Bruce Westerman.

Senator Jeffress welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

Review of Department of Education Rules Referred to the Committees by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council

**Mr. Mark White**, Attorney Specialist, Legal Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. White presented two revised rules: Rules Governing the Non-Traditional Licensure Program and Rules Governing Teacher Licensure by Reciprocity.

Rules Governing the Non-Traditional Licensure Program

Mr. White explained that traditional licensure is the means by which someone becomes a teacher by attending an education school, getting an undergraduate degree in education, and going through the traditional process for licensure. He commented that the non-traditional rule provides other pathways for training and licensure to become a teacher to someone who does not have an education degree. Mr. White said technical and stylistic corrections have been made throughout the rules to make it easier to read. He said clarification has been provided regarding the colleges and universities at which a person may take the coursework that's required by the rules. He said language that explains the statutory

authority for the fees charged for licensure has also been added. Mr. White noted that the two largest changes are:

- 1) the requirement that a non-traditional teacher must take the Praxis III before receiving a standard license has been removed. In the past, Praxis III has been required for everyone to get a standard license. That requirement has been removed from non-traditional teachers in this rule. The recommendation has been made that the requirement be removed for all other teachers, as well.
- 2) changes have been made to implement the requirements of Act 1178 of 2011, which made several significant changes to both non-traditional licensure and licensure by reciprocity.

**Dr. Karen Cushman**, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Resources, Arkansas Department of Education, and **Dr. Judy Harrison**, Dean, Teachers College, Henderson State University, were recognized, and contributed to the question and answer session that followed the presentation of the first rule. Topics included:

- removal of Praxis III also applying to students going through a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program,
- reasons for doing away with Praxis III, and those on the task force making that decision,
- affect on Praxis I and Praxis II, and on the new evaluation system of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE),
- clarification of testing required for non-traditional licensure,
- options available for non-traditional licensure in Arkansas,
- concerns about the changes in non-traditional licensure rules changing the intent of Act 1178 of 2011,
- requirements for Teach for America (TFA) licensure,
- concerns about TFA candidates receiving preference over those that gone through an accredited teacher preparation program in early childhood education at a university,
- number of TFA teachers working in early childhood vs. those at the secondary level,
- teachers and enthusiasm,
- difficulty of getting teachers in some parts of the state,
- establishment and accreditation of teacher training programs in traditional four-year colleges,
- those responsible for analyzing and driving the requirements that traditional candidates have to follow vs. those for TFA; need for hard numbers,
- permanency of rules,
- experience, licensing, and value of TFA teachers, and
- procedure for implementation of the rules.

Senator Jeffress, hearing no further questions, called for a motion.

**The Honorable Ann Clemmer**, State Representative, District 29, was recognized, and made a motion that the proposed Rules Governing the Non-Traditional Licensure Program had been reviewed by the Committees and would be sent to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. **The Honorable Les Carnine**, State Representative, District 94, was recognized, and seconded the motion. *The motion was passed without objection.*

Rules Governing Teacher Licensure by Reciprocity

Mr. White explained that teacher licensure by reciprocity is the process by which a person with a teacher's license from another state can come into Arkansas and become licensed. He said that, as with the other rule, some stylistic and technical corrections have been made in order to make the rule easier to read and to make it consistent with the ADE's other rules. He said that some of the terminology used has been changed and the requirement on college coursework has been amended so that coursework can be taken at an out-of-state college or university. Mr. White stated that changes have been made to implement Act 1178, noting that the primary change in Act 1178 is that if a person comes from another state with a license that is equivalent to an Arkansas state standard license, then, that person can get a standard license in Arkansas.

A discussion ensued following the presentation of the second rule. Topics included:

- + differences in reciprocity agreements between Texas and Arkansas,
- + requirements in college coursework for military personnel coming into Arkansas,
- + efforts made to get other states to accept Arkansas's teacher licensure, and
- + the two different kinds of accreditation, that of colleges and universities, and that of teacher preparation programs.

Senator Jeffress made a motion that the proposed Rules Governing Teacher Licensure by Reciprocity had been reviewed by the Committees and would be sent to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council. **The Honorable Johnny Key**, State Senator, District 1, was recognized, and seconded the motion. The motion was passed without objection.

At the request of Senator Jeffress, **Mr. Matthew Miller**, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized, and provided brief commentary and clarification of both rules, and said he could provide additional information, if needed.

At the request of Senator Jeffress, Mr. White explained that the reason for the delay in these rules being presented to the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education is that the rules went through a second public comment period. He said the first version of the rules was put out in September, 2011 and received a substantial number of comments. Based on those comments, changes were made that necessitated another review of the rules by the state board. Following that review, the rules were sent out for another 30-day public comment period.

Senator Jeffress thanked Mr. White and the other participants in today's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

*Approved: 08/13/12*