

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1591

5 By: Representative Vaught
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE
9 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13
14 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE
15 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-17-
21 422(b)(1), concerning the membership of the Professional Licensure Standards
22 Board, is amended to read as follows:

23 (b)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall consist of
24 ~~sixteen (16)~~ twenty (20) members appointed by the State Board of Education as
25 follows:
26

27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(b)(1)(C), concerning the
28 membership of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (C)(i) Four (4) public school classroom teachers with
31 valid Arkansas teaching licenses who are recommended by the Arkansas
32 Education Association, and who teach at:

33 ~~(i)(a)~~ A licensure level of birth to
34 kindergarten;

35 ~~(i)(b)~~ A licensure level of kindergarten
36 through grade six (K-6);



1 ~~(iii)-(c)~~ A licensure level of grades four
 2 through eight (4-8); and

3 ~~(iv)-(d)~~ A licensure level of grades seven
 4 through twelve (7-12); and

5 (ii) Two (2) public school classroom teachers with
 6 valid Arkansas teaching licenses who:

7 (a) Are recommended by the Arkansas State
 8 Teachers Association; and

9 (b) Teach at any licensure level;

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 11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(b)(1), concerning the membership
 12 of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to add additional
 13 subdivisions to read as follows:

14 (I) One (1) teacher or administrator recommended by the
 15 Arkansas Public School Resource Center who is currently employed under a
 16 waiver from licensure as a teacher of record or an administrator; and

17 (J) One (1) public school administrator with a valid
 18 Arkansas teaching and building-level or district-level administrator's
 19 license recommended by the Arkansas Rural Education Association;

20
 21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(2) and (3), concerning the
 22 duties of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as
 23 follows:

24 (2)(A) With the assistance of the Department of Education and
 25 the Department of Higher Education, ~~review the audits of the teacher~~
 26 ~~education programs offered by all institutions of higher education in the~~
 27 ~~state to determine if the institutions' teacher education programs and~~
 28 ~~courses of study are aligned as necessary to allow graduates of the teacher~~
 29 ~~education program to become licensed under this act and the rules set by the~~
 30 State Board of Education develop a system for the annual reporting and review
 31 of educator preparation program quality.

32 (B) The system may include without limitation:

33 (i) Data reporting and analysis on:

34 (a) Program graduate employment outcomes;

35 (b) Survey outcomes; and

36 (c) Public school student learning outcomes;

1 person shall be subject to the conditions, requirements, and mandates of the
 2 code of ethics, procedures, and recommendations for enforcement; and

3 (ii) For an educator employed under a waiver from
 4 licensure as a teacher of record or as an administrator, the educator shall
 5 be subject to the conditions, requirements, and mandates of the code of
 6 ethics, procedures, and recommendations for enforcement, including the public
 7 notifications under subdivision (h)(3)(A)(ii).

8 (C)(i) The Professional Licensure Standards Board may
 9 recommend to the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education
 10 may approve the monetary fees to be paid by a person for the issuance,
 11 reissuance, fine, or penalty associated with the process, procedures, or
 12 enforcement of requirements necessary to issue or maintain an Arkansas
 13 teaching license.

14 (ii) Under no circumstances shall any one (1)
 15 specific fee or fine exceed ~~one hundred dollars (\$100)~~ five hundred dollars
 16 (\$500).

17 (iii) Revenue collected by the State Board of
 18 Education from the fees and fines under this subdivision (h)(3)(C) shall be
 19 used for the operation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board; and
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21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(a)(2), concerning the definition
 22 of "educator" for the purpose of ethical violations, is amended to read as
 23 follows:

24 (2) "Educator" means:

25 (A) A person holding a valid Arkansas standard teaching
 26 license, ancillary license, provisional license, technical permit, or
 27 administrator's license issued by the State Board of Education; ~~or~~

28 (B) A preservice teacher; or

29 (C) An individual employed under a waiver from licensure
 30 as a teacher of record or as an administrator;

31
 32 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(b)(1), concerning the duties of
 33 the Professional Licensure Standards Board regarding ethical violations, is
 34 amended to read as follows:

35 (b)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

36 (A) Establish procedures for:

1 (i) Receiving and investigating an ethics complaint;
 2 (ii) Enforcing the code of ethics; ~~and~~
 3 (iii) Granting and conducting hearings under this
 4 section; and

5 (iv) Publicizing notifications equivalent to the
 6 recommendations for enforcement of the code of ethics;

7 (B) Make recommendations for enforcement of the code of
 8 ethics; ~~and~~

9 (C) Develop public notifications equivalent to the
 10 recommendations for enforcement of the code of ethics; and

11 (D) Establish an ethics subcommittee of the Professional
 12 Licensure Standards Board with equal representation of public school teachers
 13 and administrators as well as one (1) member from any other category of
 14 representation on the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

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 16 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(p)(3), concerning the reporting of
 17 sexual abuse of a student, is amended to read as follows:

18 (3)(A)(i) ~~By March 1, 2014, the~~ The department shall establish
 19 and maintain a website providing a school hiring officer with the ability to
 20 determine if the State Board of Education has acted upon an ethics complaint
 21 concerning a violation of the standard in subdivision (p)(2)(A) of this
 22 section involving the sexual abuse of a student by an applicant for
 23 employment who holds an Arkansas teaching or administrator's license or an
 24 individual intending to be employed under a waiver from licensure as a
 25 teacher of record or as an administrator.

26 (ii) The website shall identify the action taken on
 27 the ethics complaint.

28 (B) ~~Beginning March 1, 2014, before~~ Before an educator who
 29 holds an Arkansas teaching license or administrator's license or an
 30 individual intending to be employed under a waiver from licensure as a
 31 teacher of record or as an administrator may be hired for employment at an
 32 Arkansas school, the school hiring officer shall check the website maintained
 33 by the department under subdivision (p)(3)(A) of this section to determine
 34 whether the State Board of Education has acted upon a violation of the
 35 standard in subdivision (p)(2)(A) of this section involving the sexual abuse
 36 of a student by the applicant.

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APPROVED: 03/22/2017