

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 169 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1431

4
5 By: Representatives Blount, Abernathy, Cornwell, Davis, George, Hardy, Harrelson, Kenney, Medley,
6 Pate, Pickett, Pyle, Rainey, Reep, L. Smith, Wills
7 By: Senator Brown

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TEACHER LICENSURE
12 REQUIREMENTS BY CREATING THE LIFETIME TEACHING
13 LICENSE FOR EDUCATORS MAINTAINING A VALID
14 TEACHING LICENSE TO AGE 65; TO HONOR ARKANSAS
15 TEACHERS WHO HAVE MADE LASTING AND SIGNIFICANT
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION; AND FOR
17 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

19 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TEACHER LICENSURE
20 REQUIREMENTS BY CREATING THE LIFETIME
21 TEACHING LICENSE.
22

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

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17 is amended to add an
28 additional subchapter to read as follows:

29 6-17-2601. Purpose.

30 The purpose of this subchapter is to provide a Lifetime Teaching
31 License to:

32 (1) Recognize individuals who have made significant
33 contributions to education or the profession of teaching through educational
34 research, scholarly endeavors, excellence in teaching, educational
35 innovation, or years of teaching experience; and



1 (2) Promote role models in the field of education.

2
3 6-17-2602. Definitions.

4 As used in this subchapter:

5 (1) "Educational setting" means the employment setting where the
6 certified employee works, including without limitation:

7 (A) A public or private school;

8 (B) An institution of higher education;

9 (C) An education service cooperative;

10 (D) The Department of Education;

11 (E) An adult education setting; or

12 (F) Another agency or organization that employs licensed
13 teachers for educational purposes; and

14 (2) "Professional development" means a coordinated set of
15 planned, learning development activities for teachers that are standards-
16 based and that meet the focus areas for professional development required by
17 the department.

18 (3) "Teaching experience" means the experience gained while
19 working in an educational setting as a teacher, librarian, counselor,
20 administrator, educational consultant, substitute teachers, or other
21 certified employee;

22
23 6-17-2603. Eligibility.

24 To be eligible for a lifetime teaching license, the certified employee
25 must:

26 (1) Hold a current Arkansas teaching license;

27 (2) Be over sixty-five (65) years of age; and

28 (3)(A) Have worked in an educational setting while maintaining
29 an Arkansas teaching license; or

30 (B) Have made significant contributions to education,
31 educational research, or the profession of teaching through scholarly
32 endeavors, teaching experience, excellence in teaching, or educational
33 innovation.

34
35 6-17-2604. Lifetime teaching license.

36 (a) Beginning July 1, 2008, a person who meets the eligibility

1 requirements of § 6-17-2603 and who wishes to obtain a lifetime teaching
2 license shall apply for the lifetime teaching license within twelve (12)
3 calendar months after his or her sixty-fifth birthday.

4 (b)(1) The State Board of Education shall review the application.

5 (2) If the state board approves the application, it shall
6 continue the applicant’s current license as a lifetime teaching license.

7 (3) Lifetime teaching license applicants are subject to a
8 criminal background check upon application.

9 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the lifetime
10 teaching license shall be reissued every five (5) years.

11 (d) A lifetime teaching license is subject to the same laws for
12 revocation as any Arkansas teaching license.

13 (e) A person who holds a lifetime teaching license is not required to
14 renew their teaching license.

15 (f)(1) A lifetime teaching license holder is not subject to the
16 requirements for annual professional development requirements.

17 (2) An eligible person who retired prior to the effective date
18 of this subchapter is not subject to future professional development
19 requirements.

20
21 6-17-2605. Employment by a public school district.

22 (a) A lifetime teaching license holder is eligible to serve as a
23 substitute teachers and as a tutor.

24 (b) A lifetime teaching license holder who becomes employed by a
25 school district shall participate in the professional development programs
26 required by the employing school district.

27 (c) A lifetime teaching license holder who has not taught in an
28 educational setting for one (1) or more years shall be required to provide to
29 the Department of Education verification of twenty (20) hours of professional
30 development prior to reentering the educational setting.

31
32 6-17-2606. Rules – Reports.

33 The Arkansas Department of Education shall:

34 (1) Develop rules to implement the provisions of this
35 subchapter; and

36 (2) Report annually to the General Assembly regarding compliance

1 with each item set forth in this subchapter.

2
3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-401(a), concerning the requirement for
4 a teacher’s license, is amended to read as follows:

5 (a) Except as permitted under § 6-17-309 and § 6-17-2601 et seq., no
6 teacher shall be employed in any public school of the state who is not
7 licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas by a license issued by the State
8 Board of Education.

9
10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402, concerning rules for teacher
11 certification, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12 (g)(1)(A) The state board shall waive the requirement for professional
13 development for a retired teacher who:

14 (i) Maintains a valid license; and

15 (ii) Reenters the educational setting prior to
16 sixty-five (65) years of age due to a teacher shortage.

17 (B) “Educational setting” means the employment setting
18 where the certified employee works, including without limitation:

19 (i) A public or private school;

20 (ii) An institution of higher education;

21 (iii) An education service cooperative;

22 (iv) The Department of Education;

23 (v) An adult education setting; or

24 (vi) Another agency or organization that employs
25 licensed teachers for educational purposes.

26 (2) A retired teacher who receives a waiver under subdivision
27 (g)(1) of this section shall participate in the staff development programs
28 required by the school district where he or she is employed.

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30 APPROVED: 2/28/2007