

"AN ACT TO AMEND ACT 350 OF 1985 TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO ATTAIN CREDIT HOURS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1987 TOWARD COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 350; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 2(e) of Act 350 of 1985 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2(e). Any teacher, administrator or other certified person who has not satisfactorily completed the test required by this Section shall not be eligible for recertification at the expiration of their current certificate."

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Act 350 of 1985 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. (a) During the 1984-85 school year, all certified personnel employed by the public school districts of this State shall be required to take a nationally recognized test designated or developed and validated by the State Board of Education in a subject area in which such person is certified or teaching during the 1984-85 school year. If a person is not teaching in a subject area in which he/she is certified during the 1984-85 school year, that person shall be given the aforementioned test in an area as determined by appropriate guidelines, rules and regulations promulgated therefor by the State Board of Education. If there is no subject area test for a person for the subject area in which a person is certified, then a test shall be given in an area which is determined to be appropriate under guidelines, rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education. If there is no appropriate test, then the person shall take six (6) hours described herein below. Notwithstanding the above, any certified personnel hereinabove described may choose to take not less than six (6) hours of academic course work at an institution of higher education and attain a 3.00 grade point average on a 4.00 grade scale in such course work. The course work required by this Section shall be senior or graduate level in the area of certification or teaching of the individual and shall be in accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of Education. Any teacher, administrator or other certified person who took the N.T.E. subject area test in his/her area of certification after January 1, 1980, and scored at or above the level established by the State Board of Education for satisfactory completion of such test shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section. Any teacher, administrator or other certified person who took six (6) hours of academic course work in his/her area of certification after January 1, 1980 and attained a 3.00 grade point average or better on a 4.00 grade scale shall be exempt from the requirements of this Section. Any certified personnel who selects to take six (6) hours of academic course work must complete these six (6) hours prior to September 1, 1987. Certified personnel who do not achieve the level of performance on such test established by the State Board of Education for successful completion of such test shall be required to successfully complete an amount of academic subject area course work in accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of Education.

(b) Any teacher, administrator or other certified person who fails to take the test required by this Section or to comply with the educational alternative shall not be eligible for recertification after September 1, 1987."

SECTION 3. Section 4 of Act 350 of 1985 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Any teacher, administrator, or other person holding a certificate issued by the State Board of Education and not employed by the public schools of this State during the 1984-85 school year shall satisfactorily complete the testing requirement in Section 2 and the testing requirement or educational alternative in Section 3 prior to recertification. Any person in this category who fails to satisfactorily complete the test required by Section 2 and/or the test required by Section 3 or its educational alternative shall not be eligible for recertification at the expiration of their current certificate."

SECTION 4. Any teacher, administrator, or other certified person who is not eligible for recertification due to failure to comply with this Act is eligible to apply for new certification under initial certification regulations or such other regulations as are promulgated by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that a shortage of certified teachers may exist in the future; that the immediate implementation of this Act is necessary to preserve the peace, safety and health of the citizens of the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: 4/1/87

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