

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1303

5 By: Representative C. Douglas
6 By: Senator Hickey
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
10 REGARDING THE TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; TO
11 PRIORITIZE THE AWARDING OF FUNDS TO TEACHERS FOR
12 ADDITIONAL EDUCATION IN CERTAIN FIELDS; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE
17 REGARDING THE TEACHER OPPORTUNITY
18 PROGRAM; AND TO PRIORITIZE THE AWARDING
19 OF FUNDS TO TEACHERS FOR ADDITIONAL
20 EDUCATION IN CERTAIN FIELDS.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-605(a), concerning the priority of
27 awarding funds under the Teacher Opportunity Program, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 (a)(1) The first priority for the award of funds under the Teacher
30 Opportunity Program is the award of reimbursements ~~under the Dual Licensure~~
31 ~~Incentive Program, §§ 6-81-608 and 6-81-609~~ for additional education in:

32 (A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
33 fields;

34 (B) Computer science;

35 (C) Literacy or reading;

36 (D) Prekindergarten education; or



1 (E) Special education.

2 (2) If funds are available after all awards are made under ~~the~~
 3 ~~Dual Licensure Incentive Program~~ subdivision (a)(1) of this section, then
 4 additional reimbursements may be made in accordance with the following:

5 (A) ~~Students~~ A student may receive reimbursements up to
 6 but not in excess of the cost of his or her student fees, books, and
 7 instructional supplies at the public institution of higher education in this
 8 state assessing the highest rate of student fees;

9 (B) The reimbursements made to one (1) ~~individual~~ student
 10 within one (1) fiscal year may not exceed the costs associated with six (6)
 11 semester credit hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit hours; and

12 (C) All other requirements established by the Department
 13 of Higher Education are met.

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 15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-607(3), concerning the definition of
 16 "student", is amended to read as follows:

17 (3) "Student" means a classroom teacher who is attending an
 18 institution of higher education ~~as part of the Dual Licensure Incentive~~
 19 ~~Program, §§ 6-81-608 and 6-81-609~~ for additional education in:

20 (A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics
 21 fields;

22 (B) Computer science;

23 (C) Literacy or reading;

24 (D) Prekindergarten education; or

25 (E) Special education.

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 28 **APPROVED: 02/13/2017**