

Hall of the House of Representatives
86th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2007
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2682

"AN ACT TO REVISE THE PROCESS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND TO
REDEFINE THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2682.

Amend House Bill No. 2682 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete line 5 and substitute the following:
"By: Representatives Hoyt, Hawkins, Breedlove"

AND

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 12 and substitute the following:
"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PRESCRIBE UNIFORM COLLEGE
LEVEL PREPARATORY AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PERSONS
APPLYING FOR INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE OR RELICENSURE AFTER JULY 1, 2008; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Page 1, delete lines 15 through 18 and substitute the following:
"AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PRESCRIBE UNIFORM COLLEGE
LEVEL PREPARATORY AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS."

AND

Delete everything after the ENACTING clause and substitute the following:
"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402 is amended to read as follows:
6-17-402. Rules ~~and regulations~~.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Certified teaching license" includes that license of a
licensed classroom teacher, administrator, counselor, or librarian; and

(2) "Levels of licensure" means the grade levels listed on a
teaching license of persons who are required to teach students in those grade
levels.

~~(a)(1)(b)(1)~~ (1) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules ~~and
regulations~~ for the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
licensure of teachers in the public schools of this state.

(2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe uniform college



level preparatory and grade point average requirements for all teachers applying for initial licensure or relicensure after July 1, 2008, including uniform and specific requirements for:

(A) Course of study;

(B) College level teacher education classes;

(C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade level certification; and

(D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching hours.

~~(2)~~(3)(A) In addition to the requirements under subdivision (b)(2) of this section and other requirements, any person applying for initial licensure as a teacher in the public schools or a licensed teacher applying for a license in an additional area shall take and complete a test recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the state board under § 6-17-601 et seq., and submit the scores to the Department of Education.

~~(b)~~(B) No applicant for initial licensure or licensure in an additional area shall receive a license unless the applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the state board obtains the minimum grade point average set by the state board for any college level course work requirements established by the state board.

~~(e)~~(C) All colleges and universities in this state shall report the results of the examinations to the department upon request.

~~(d)~~(c)(1) The state board shall not delegate to any college or university any of the state board's powers or duties pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of licensure of teachers in public schools in this state.

(2) The state board shall not delegate to any college or university any of the state board's powers or duties pertaining to the uniform and specific requirements for:

(A) Course of study;

(B) College level teacher education classes;

(C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade-level certification; and

(D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching hours.

~~(e)~~(d)(1)(A) The state board shall waive the examination requirements and the uniform college level preparatory and grade point average requirements under subsection (a) of this section for individuals applying for licensure in Arkansas who have a valid out-of-state teaching and administrative license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by the rules and regulations promulgated by the state board.

(B) No additional reciprocity requirements that conflict with this subdivision (d)(1) shall be established by rules promulgated by the state board after the effective date of this act.

(C) Except for existing state board rules in effect as of July 1, 2007, this subdivision shall be the only requirement for licensure reciprocity.

(2) The state board shall waive the uniform college level preparatory and grade point average requirement under subsection (a) of this

section for a student enrolled as a junior or senior in a teacher education program before July 1, 2008.

~~(f) For purposes of this section, "certified teaching license" includes that license of a licensed classroom teacher, administrator, counselor, or librarian.~~

(e)(1) By July 1, 2008, the levels of licensure for Arkansas shall be for:

- (A) Grades prekindergarten through six (PreK-6);
- (B) Grades seven through twelve (7-12);
- (C) Grades four through eight (4-8); and
- (D) Specialty content areas prekindergarten through twelve (PreK-12).

(2)(A) Institutions of higher education that have approved programs of study for grades prekindergarten through four (preK-4) in place shall be approved by the Department of Higher Education to offer a grades prekindergarten through six (preK-6) licensure program by adding appropriate middle-level course work as currently outlined by the Department of Education for an endorsement in grades five through six (5-6).

(B) Institutions of higher education currently offering prekindergarten through grade four (preK-4) early childhood licensure programs approved by the Department of Education shall not be required to resubmit these programs for approval when the licensure levels change from prekindergarten through grade four (preK-4) to prekindergarten through grade six (preK-6).

(f) The uniform college level preparatory and grade point average requirements prescribed by the state board as provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this section shall not be required for any teacher who has been issued a teacher certification or licensure before July 1, 2008.

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

- (i) Maintains a valid license; and
- (ii) Reenters the educational setting prior to sixty-five (65) years of age due to a teacher shortage.

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

- (i) A public or private school;
- (ii) An institution of higher education;
- (iii) An education service cooperative;
- (iv) The Department of Education;
- (v) An adult education setting; or
- (vi) Another agency or organization that employs licensed teachers for educational purposes.

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

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 4 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-422. Professional Licensure Standards Board -- Creation -- Membership.

(a) The "Professional Licensure Standards Board" is created.

(b) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall consist of

fifteen (15) members as follows:

(1) Twelve (12) members appointed by the State Board of Education as follows:

(A) Three (3) public school teachers with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than six (6) different teachers with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Education Association;

(B) One (1) person with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different people with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education;

(C) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of School Administrators;

(D) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators;

(E) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of Secondary Principals;

(F) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals;

(G) Two (2) deans of a public institution of higher education school of education, college of education, or department of education from a list of no fewer than five (5) different administrators submitted by the Executive Council of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

(H) Two (2) representatives of an independent higher education institution from a list of no fewer than five (5) different representatives submitted by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education;

(2) The Coordinator for the Office of Professional Quality Enhancement of the Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity;

(3) The Coordinator for the Office of Professional Licensure of the Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity; and

(4) The Non-traditional Licensure Program Advisor of the Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity.

(c)(1) Any list to be submitted under subsection (b) of this section shall be submitted to the secretary of the State Board of Education by June 30, 2007.

(2) If a list for the respective position is not submitted by the deadline, the State Board of Education may appoint any qualified person to fill the position.

(d)(1) The appointed Professional Licensure Standards Board members shall be residents of the State of Arkansas at the time of appointment and throughout their terms.

(2) The Commissioner of Education shall call an organizational meeting within twenty (20) calendar days after the State Board of Education has made all necessary appointments.

(3) The commissioner shall serve as chair at the organizational meeting until the Professional Licensure Standards Board elects a chair from among its members during the first organizational meeting.

(e)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall meet at times and places the chair deems necessary, but no meetings shall be held outside of the State of Arkansas.

(2) A majority of the members of the Professional Licensure Standards Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

(3) All action of the Professional Licensure Standards Board shall be by a majority vote of the full membership of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

(f) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

(1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of Education uniform college level preparatory and grade point average requirements for all teachers applying for initial licensure or relicensure after July 1, 2008, that shall include uniform and specific requirements for:

(A) Course of study;

(B) College level teacher education classes;

(C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade-level certification; and

(D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching hours.

(2) With the assistance of the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, review the teacher education programs offered by all institutions' of higher education in the state to determine if the institutions teacher education programs and courses of study are aligned as necessary to allow graduates of the teacher education program to become licensed under this act and the rules set by the State Board of Education.

(g)(1) The Department of Education shall provide staff and office space to the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

(2)(A) Members of the Professional Licensure Standards Board shall serve without pay.

(B) Members of the Professional Licensure Standards Board may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with § 25-16-902, to be paid by the Department of Education to the extent money is available for that purpose."

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Cook
MGF/CDS - 03-16-2007 08:10
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Chief Clerk