

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: H3/26/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2192

5 By: Representative Patterson
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN THE
10 STATE TEACHER ASSISTANCE RESOURCE PROGRAM; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 TO INCLUDE PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN
15 THE STATE TEACHER ASSISTANCE RESOURCE
16 PROGRAM.
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18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1502(1), concerning the definition of*
22 *a five-year teacher education program for purposes of the State Teacher*
23 *Assistance Resource Program, is amended to read as follows:*

24 *(1) "Five-year teacher education program" means a program within a*
25 *regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas that will*
26 *lead to obtaining a teacher ~~certification~~ licensure and is designed for*
27 *completion in five (5) years with an award of a master's degree in education*
28 *or in school counseling;*
29

30 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1503(b), concerning the purpose of the*
31 *State Teacher Assistance Resource Program, is amended to read as follows:*

32 *(b) While in college, the state teacher assistance resource recipient*
33 *should be exposed to a range of extracurricular activities geared toward*
34 *instilling a strong motivation not only to remain in teaching or school*
35 *counseling but also to provide leadership for tomorrow's schools.*
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1 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(b), concerning administration of
2 the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program, is amended to read as follows:

3 (b) The department shall adopt standards for awarding the forgivable
4 loans to ensure that students in their sophomore, junior, or senior year who
5 are actively pursuing a degree in teaching are admitted to a teacher
6 education program or school counseling program or are enrolled in a Master of
7 Arts in Teaching program with the best potential for success receive a
8 forgivable loan.

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10 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(e)(5), concerning administration
11 of the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program, is amended to read as
12 follows:

13 (5) Geographical area in which the applicant or recipient
14 intends to teach or be employed as a school counselor;

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16 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1505 is amended to read as follows:
17 6-81-1505. Eligibility.

18 A student entering his or her sophomore, junior, or senior year and
19 actively pursuing or admitted to a teacher education program or a school
20 counseling program shall be eligible to receive a forgivable loan under the
21 State Teacher Assistance Resource Program if:

22 (1) The recipient earns a cumulative grade point average of 2.75
23 or above on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution;

24 (2) The recipient has completed at least one (1) year of full-
25 time postsecondary course work; and

26 (3) The recipient meets any other continuing eligibility
27 criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

28
29 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1506(a), concerning the forgivable
30 loans under the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program, is amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (a)(1) The State Teacher Assistance Resource Program shall be used to
33 provide:

34 (A) A forgivable loan ~~in the amount~~ of three thousand
35 dollars (\$3,000) per year for a sophomore, junior, or senior actively
36 pursuing a degree in teaching admitted to a teacher education program or

1 school counseling program or enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program
2 who commits to teach or be employed as a school counselor in a public school
3 located in a geographical area of the state designated as having a critical
4 shortage of teachers or teach in a subject matter area designated as having a
5 critical shortage of teachers;

6 (B) A two-year forgivable loan if the recipient is in a
7 four-year teacher education program or a three-year forgivable loan if the
8 recipient is in a five-year teacher education program or school counseling
9 program in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for a junior
10 or senior admitted to a teacher education program who commits to teach or be
11 employed as a school counselor in a public school located in a geographical
12 area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers and
13 teach in a subject matter area designated as having a critical shortage of
14 teachers;

15 (C) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the
16 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year for each year a ~~certified~~
17 licensed teacher who graduated from a teacher education program or a school
18 counseling program after April 2004 teaches or is employed as a school
19 counselor in a public school located in a geographical area of the state
20 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers; or

21 (D) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the
22 amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for each year a ~~certified~~
23 licensed teacher or school counselor who graduated from a teacher education
24 program or school counseling program after April 2004 teaches in a public
25 school located in a geographical area of the state designated as having a
26 critical shortage of teachers and teaches in a subject matter designated as
27 having a critical shortage of teachers.

28 (2) The Department of Education shall set the term of the loan
29 with the goal of assisting the recipient to complete the recipient's teacher
30 education program or school counseling program.

31 (3) ~~No~~ A person receiving a forgivable loan under subdivision
32 (a)(1)(A) or (B) of this section shall not be eligible to receive a loan
33 repayment under subdivision (a)(1)(C) or (D) of this section.

34
35 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1506(e), concerning the forgivable
36 loans under the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program, are amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (e)(1) Within nine (9) months after completion of the teacher
3 education program or school counseling program, the recipient of a forgivable
4 loan under the State Teacher Assistance Resource Program shall begin to teach
5 or shall be employed as a school counselor in a public school in the state in
6 accordance with the student's initial commitment or shall begin to repay the
7 loan in accordance with the terms of a note executed under subsection (c) of
8 this section.

9 (2) The department shall forgive one (1) year of the loan for
10 each consecutive year the recipient teaches or is employed as a school
11 counselor full time in a shortage area in accordance with the terms of the
12 recipient's initial commitment beginning nine (9) months from the date of
13 graduation.

14 (3) The department may grant loan repayment deferrals to
15 students who enrolled in masters or doctoral programs after completion of a
16 four-year or five-year teacher education program or school counseling program
17 or for other just cause as determined by the department.

18 (4) The department may also forgive the loan if it finds that it
19 is impossible for the recipient to teach or be employed as a school counselor
20 in an Arkansas public school as required because of the death or permanent
21 disability of the recipient.

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/s/ Patterson