

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/13

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1590

5 By: Representative Westerman
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON APPLYING FOR AN
9 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE OR AN
10 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING LICENSE
11 TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS FOUNDATIONS OF READING TEST AND
12 THE GENERAL CURRICULUM TEST OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
13 TESTS FOR EDUCATIONAL LICENSURE AS A CONDITION OF
14 LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS TO BE
19 SUCCESSFULLY PASSED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN
20 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE
21 OR ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION
22 TEACHING LICENSE.
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24
25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(b)-(d), concerning teacher
28 licensure, is amended to read as follows:

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

32 (2)(A) In addition to other requirements, ~~any:~~

33 (i) A person applying for initial licensure as a
34 secondary level teacher or administrator in the public schools or a licensed
35 secondary level teacher, a licensed elementary general education teacher, or
36 applying for a license in an additional area shall take and complete a test



1 recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and
 2 approved by the State Board of Education and submit the scores to the
 3 Department of Education; and

4 (ii)(a) A person applying for initial licensure as
 5 an elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special
 6 education teacher shall take and complete the Foundations of Reading test and
 7 the General Curriculum test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educational
 8 Licensure, including the Mathematics subtest, and submit the scores to the
 9 department.

10 (b) The state board shall not require
 11 additional testing for a person applying for initial licensure as an
 12 elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special
 13 education teacher other than what is required under subdivision
 14 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section.

15 (B)(i) ~~No~~ An applicant for initial licensure or licensure
 16 in an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless
 17 the applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of
 18 Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional
 19 Licensure Standards Board.

20 (ii) For tests administered under subdivision
 21 (b)(2)(A)(ii), the cut scores shall be set by the State Board of Education,
 22 with strong consideration given to the cut scores used in Massachusetts.

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

25 (c) The State Board of Education shall not delegate to ~~any~~ a college
 26 or university any of the State Board of Education's powers or duties
 27 pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
 28 licensure of teachers in public schools in this state.

29 ~~(d) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination~~
 30 ~~requirements under subsection (b) of this section for individuals applying~~
 31 ~~for licensure in Arkansas who have a valid out-of-state teaching license and~~
 32 ~~three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by the rules~~
 33 ~~promulgated by the State Board of Education.~~

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 35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403 is amended to read as follows:

36 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in

1 other states.

2 (a) The State Board of Education may issue a one-year nonrenewable
3 provisional license to any teacher who seeks Arkansas licensure and is
4 trained in and licensed by a state other than Arkansas if the teacher has
5 been in good standing during the most recent three (3) years of teaching in
6 another state.

7 (b)(1) ~~Any~~ A person who has not successfully completed the licensure
8 ~~examination tests~~ designated by the state board under ~~§ 6-17-601 et seq.~~ 6-
9 17-402 and who has not previously held an Arkansas license but meets degree,
10 course work, and experience requirements for a standard license and who
11 otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this state may receive
12 a one-year nonrenewable provisional license and be employed by any public
13 school district in this state for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

14 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
15 successfully completed the examination shall not be penalized by the state
16 board ~~provided that~~ if the length of employment of the teacher while
17 nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

18 (c) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license
19 to an individual who furnishes to the Department of Education proof of the
20 following:

21 (1) A valid standard teaching license or its Arkansas equivalent
22 that:

23 (A) Was issued in another state; and

24 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent ~~two~~
25 ~~(2)~~ three (3) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

26 (2) Successful completion of the criminal records checks and
27 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;

28 (3) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at
29 least a baccalaureate degree;

30 ~~Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~
31 ~~licensing state~~ Successful completion of tests required under § 6-17-402;

32 (5) Completion of a program for:

33 (A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited
34 institution of higher education;

35 (B) Teacher education accredited by the National Council
36 for Accreditation of Teacher Education; or

1 (C) Certification from the National Board ~~of~~ for
2 Professional Teaching Standards; and

3 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.
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5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(1), concerning nontraditional
6 teacher licensure, is amended to read as follows:

7 (e)(1) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching
8 license to an applicant if the applicant has:

9 (A) Either:

10 (i) Successfully completed the two-year Teach ~~for~~
11 For America program; or

12 (ii) Been awarded a master's degree in teaching from
13 an accredited program at an institution of higher education;

14 (B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and
15 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410-~~r~~; and

16 (C) Successfully completed the tests required under § 6-
17 17-402.
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19 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and
20 confidentiality of test scores is amended to read as follows:

21 (a) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of~~ this
22 subchapter and under § 6-17-402 shall not be disclosed but shall be retained
23 by the Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the
24 Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act
25 ~~which~~ that would require the disclosure thereof. However, the department
26 shall provide each licensed ~~personnel~~ person with that person's test score
27 and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of the test.
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29 /s/Westerman
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