

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 456

5 By: Senator Elliott
6 By: Representative Lenderman
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS GOVERNING EDUCATOR
10 LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS GOVERNING EDUCATOR
14 LICENSURE.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403(c), concerning provisional
21 licensure for teachers trained and licensed in other states, is amended to
22 read as follows:

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

26 (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas
27 equivalent that:

28 (A) Was issued in another state; and

29 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent two
30 (2) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

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

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

35 (4) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the
36 licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented



1 teaching experience;

2 (5) Reports evidencing passing test scores on the appropriate
 3 basic-skills assessment mandated by the state board for educator licensure or
 4 its substantial equivalent, unless the individual has three (3) years of
 5 documented teaching experience;

6 (6) Completion of a program for:

7 (A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited
 8 institution of higher education;

9 (B) Teacher education accredited by the National Council
 10 for Accreditation of Teacher Education, Teacher Education Accreditation
 11 Council, or Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

12 (C) Certification from the National Board of Professional
 13 Teaching Standards; and

14 ~~(6)~~(7) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

15
 16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(3), concerning nontraditional
 17 licensure, is amended to read as follows:

18 (3) The state board may require an applicant who meets the
 19 criteria of subdivision (e)(1) of this section to submit proof of the
 20 following academic eligibility:

21 (A) ~~A passing~~ Passing scores, as set by the state board,
 22 on a state-required basic-skills, pedagogical, and content-area assessments,
 23 or their substantial equivalents; and

24 (B)(i) If required by state board rules for the grade
 25 level and content area for which the applicant seeks licensure, successful
 26 completion of courses in Arkansas History or ~~Methods of Teaching Reading~~
 27 reading and writing in content areas, or both.

28 (ii) An applicant who has successfully completed the
 29 two-year Teach for America program is exempt from the ~~Methods of Teaching~~
 30 Reading requirement of courses in reading and writing in content areas;

31
 32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(f), concerning nontraditional
 33 licensure, is amended to read as follows:

34 (f)(1) The state board shall issue a nonrenewable three-year
 35 provisional professional teaching license to an applicant who submits to the
 36 department the following:

1 (A) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of
2 at least a baccalaureate degree;

3 (B) Evidence of a minimum of three (3) years of employment
4 experience in the content area that the applicant seeks to teach;

5 (C) Evidence of an offer of employment to teach classes
6 for credit in an Arkansas public school;

7 (D) A statement of justification from the applicant
8 relating the applicant's experience to teaching in the content area in which
9 the applicant seeks to teach;

10 (E) Two (2) professional letters of recommendation
11 submitted by the applicant's references;

12 (F) ~~A passing score~~ Passing scores on the state-required
13 basic-skills and content knowledge ~~and pedagogical~~ tests for the content area
14 in which the applicant seeks to teach; and

15 (G) Successful completion of the criminal background
16 checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410.

17 (2)(A)(i) An individual who receives a three-year provisional
18 teaching license under this subsection shall ~~pass the Praxis II Pedagogy~~
19 ~~Assessment or have thirty (30)~~ have in the first year of provisional
20 licensure twenty-four (24) hours of training in pedagogy as determined by the
21 Department of Education.

22 (ii) The ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) hours of
23 training in pedagogy are in addition to and not considered a part of the
24 sixty (60) hours of professional development required for teachers by their
25 employing school district or public school.

26 (3) At the end of ~~three (3) years~~ each year of provisional
27 licensure, the licensee shall undergo a summative evaluation as required by
28 Arkansas law.

29 (4)~~(A)~~ ~~The~~ At the end of three (3) years of provisional
30 licensure, the state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license
31 to the licensee if the licensee ~~successfully completes a performance-based~~
32 ~~assessment that includes student achievement;~~

33 (A) Submits passing scores on the state-required
34 pedagogical assessment or its substantial equivalent for the content area in
35 which the applicant seeks to teach;

36 (B) Is identified by the employing school district as

1 proficient or above on a summative evaluation under § 6-17-2805 for the third
 2 year of provisional licensure; and

3 (C) Is recommended for full licensure by the
 4 superintendent of the employing school district.

5 ~~(B) The performance based assessment shall be:~~

6 ~~(i) Approved by the state board;~~

7 ~~(ii) Paid for by the state; and~~

8 ~~(iii) Administered no earlier than the completion of~~
 9 ~~the first academic school year of teaching and before the expiration of the~~
 10 ~~three year provisional license.~~

11
 12 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(k), concerning ethical violations,
 13 is amended to read as follows:

14 (k) The ethics subcommittee shall complete its investigation of an
 15 ethics complaint and take action:

16 (1) Within one hundred fifty (150) days of authorizing the
 17 investigation of the ethics complaint; or

18 (2) If a hearing is conducted, within one hundred eighty (180)
 19 days of ~~receiving the ethics complaint~~ authorizing the investigation of the
 20 ethics complaint.

21
 22 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-919(a), concerning warrants void
 23 without valid license and contract, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a) All warrants issued in payment of teachers' salaries are void
 25 unless:

26 (1)(A) The teacher is licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas
 27 by a license issued by the State Board of Education; or

28 (B) ~~The public school district employing the teacher has~~
 29 ~~other documentation from the Office of Professional Licensure of the~~
 30 ~~Department of Education authorizing employment of the teacher under the~~
 31 ~~conditions set forth by the department in the documentation~~ teacher is a
 32 substitute teacher employed under § 6-15-1004 and rules of the State Board of
 33 Education;

34 (2) The teacher has been employed by a valid written contract;
 35 and

36 (3) Copies of such contract are on file in the office of the

1 county treasurer or the school district treasurer if the school district has
2 its own treasurer.

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4 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(1), concerning the duties of
5 the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of
7 Education minimum college level preparatory and grade point average
8 requirements for all teachers applying for ~~initial licensure or additional~~
9 licensure ~~after July 1, 2007~~, that shall include minimum requirements for:

- 10 (A) Course of study;
- 11 (B) Program approval;
- 12 (C) Range of approved hours; and
- 13 (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
14 hours;