State of Arkansas

93rd General Assembly

Regular Session, 2021

By: Representatives Vaught, Godfrey, Haak, Hawks, L. Johnson, Maddox

By: Senators L. Eads, Hester, J. Sturch, D. Wallace

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING TEACHING LICENSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING TEACHING LICENSES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-430. Licensing of noncitizens.

(a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may grant a license under this subchapter to an individual who, in addition to fulfilling the requirements to teach in this state, satisfies the following requirements:

(1) The United States Department of Homeland Security has approved the individual's request for exemption under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy;

(2) The individual’s exemption status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy has:

(A) Not expired; or

(B) Been properly renewed; and

(3) The individual has a current and valid employment authorization document issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.
(b) This section is a state law within the meaning of subsection (d) of 8 U.S.C. § 1621, as existing on January 1, 2021.

(c) The division shall promulgate rules to implement this section.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules.

(a) When adopting the initial rules to implement this section, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

   (1) On or before January 1, 2022; or

   (2) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1, 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

(b) The division shall file the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2022.

/s/Vaught