

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/10/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1425

5 By: Representatives Vaught, Barker, Cavanaugh, Sturch, G. Hodges
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE
9 LICENSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
10 ADMINISTRATORS AND LICENSURE EXCEPTIONS; TO AUTHORIZE
11 A TIERED LICENSURE SYSTEM; TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS
12 TO BASE TEACHER COMPENSATION ON LICENSURE LEVELS
13 APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND FOR
14 OTHER PURPOSES.
15
16

Subtitle

17 CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF TEACHERS AND
18 ADMINISTRATORS AND LICENSURE EXCEPTIONS;
19 TO AUTHORIZE A TIERED LICENSURE SYSTEM;
20 AND TO ALLOW DISTRICTS TO BASE
21 COMPENSATION ON LICENSURE LEVELS.
22
23
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1004(a) and (b), concerning licensure
28 assessments for teachers, is amended to read as follows:

29 (a)(1) Arkansas teachers will demonstrate competency in subject matter
30 content on identified assessments appropriate to their teaching area in order
31 to be granted ~~an initial a~~ license to teach in the state under rules
32 promulgated by the State Board of Education.

33 (2) If there is no assessment available under subdivision (a)(1)
34 of this section for a new licensure area for subject matter content, the
35 Department of Education may request that the state board approve an
36 alternative method of demonstrating subject matter content competency.



1 (b) In order to obtain a teaching license, Arkansas teachers will
2 demonstrate the ability to increase student academic achievement by
3 demonstrating competency on ~~identified~~ assessments of teaching methods
4 approved by the state board that result in increased student achievement.
5

6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1004(d)-(h), concerning unlicensed
7 teachers in a classroom for more than thirty (30) days, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 (d) ~~Effective at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, no~~ A
10 teacher shall not be assigned to teach a grade level or a subject for which
11 he or she is not fully or provisionally licensed by the state unless he or
12 she meets one (1) of the following licensure exceptions as established by
13 rules promulgated by the state board:

14 (1)(A) An emergency teaching permit granted to a school district
15 for a position filled by a nonlicensed teacher who meets the Arkansas
16 Qualified Teacher Requirements promulgated by the State Board of Education.

17 (B) An emergency teaching permit may be granted annually
18 for not more than two (2) consecutive school years;

19 (2) An effective teacher licensure exception granted to a school
20 district for a position to be filled by an Arkansas licensed educator to
21 teach a content area related to the educator's current licensure content
22 area;

23 (3) A technical permit issued in cooperation with the Department
24 of Career Education;

25 (4) A licensure exception under:

26 (A) The District of Innovation Program, § 6-15-2801 et
27 seq.;

28 (B) The Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013, § 6-
29 23-101 et seq.; or

30 (C) Section 6-15-103;

31 (5) A plan for adding an area to an existing Arkansas teaching
32 license while teaching in the content area to be added; or

33 (6) A waiver for a long-term substitute teacher granted under
34 subsection (e) of this section.

35 (e)(1) For purposes of this section, "long-term substitute" means an
36 individual who:

1 (A) Holds:

2 (i) A bachelor's degree from an accredited college
3 or university; or

4 (ii) An Arkansas teaching license; and

5 (B) Is substituting for a teacher of record for thirty-one
6 (31) or more consecutive school days in the same class during a school year.

7 (2) No class of students shall be under the instruction of a one
8 (1) or more substitute teacher or teachers for more than thirty (30)
9 consecutive school days in the same class during a school year unless the
10 substitute teacher or teachers instructing the class have a bachelor's degree
11 awarded by an accredited college or university or have been licensed to teach
12 by the State of Arkansas school district has obtained a long-term substitute
13 waiver.

14 ~~(2)(3)~~ A long-term substitute teacher or teachers possessing a
15 bachelor's degree shall continue to teach the class from at least the thirty-
16 first consecutive day after the regular teacher is absent from the class
17 until the return of the regular teacher to that class.

18 ~~(f)(4)~~ A person serving as a substitute teacher for thirty (30) days
19 or fewer shall:

20 ~~(1)(A)~~ Be a high school graduate; or

21 ~~(2)(B)~~ Hold a graduate equivalent degree.

22 ~~(g)~~ Subsections (e) and (f) of this section shall not apply to
23 substitutes for nondegreed vocational technical teachers.

24 ~~(h)(1)~~ If subsections (e) and (f) of this section impose an undue
25 hardship on a school district, the school district may apply to the State
26 Board of Education for a waiver.

27 ~~(2)(5)~~ The state board shall develop rules and regulations for
28 granting a long-term substitute waiver.

29 ~~(3)~~ *Any school district granted a waiver from this requirement*
30 *shall be identified in the department's annual school district report card.*

31

32 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402 is amended to read as follows:

33 6-17-402. Rules and regulations.

34 (a) The State Board of Education shall issue the license of a
35 classroom teacher, an administrator, a guidance counselor, or a library media
36 specialist in the public schools of this state.

1 ~~(b)(1)~~ ~~The State Board of Education~~ state board shall promulgate rules
2 ~~and regulations~~ for the ~~issuance,~~ licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
3 licensure of public school teachers and administrators in the public schools
4 ~~of this state that:~~

5 (1) Require at a minimum that each in-state applicant for teacher
6 licensure:

7 (A) Completes an educator preparation program approved by
8 the Department of Education, which shall include without limitation:

9 (i) Educator preparation programs at institutions of
10 higher education leading to a bachelor's degree or higher; and

11 (ii) Alternative educator preparation programs under
12 § 6-17-409; and

13 (B) Demonstrates:

14 (i) Licensure content area knowledge; and

15 (ii) Knowledge of teaching methods; and

16 (2) Require at a minimum that each in-state applicant for an
17 administrator's license demonstrates knowledge of state-adopted competencies
18 and standards for educational leaders.

19 (c) The state board may promulgate rules for a tiered system of
20 licensure, which may include without limitation:

21 (1) An emergency teaching permit;

22 (2) A technical permit;

23 (3)(A) A provisional license.

24 (B) The state board rules may provide that a provisional
25 license may be issued if the applicant:

26 (i) Meets the minimum qualifications under
27 subdivision (b)(1)-(2) of this section as applicable to an applicant for a
28 teaching or an administrator license; or

29 (ii) Partially meets full licensure requirements;

30 (4) A novice or first-time license;

31 (5) A standard license; and

32 (6)(A) A license with advanced requirements.

33 (B) The state board may authorize a teacher leader
34 advanced license or a teacher leader endorsement to a license.

35 ~~(2)(A) In addition to other requirements, any person applying~~
36 ~~for initial licensure as a teacher or administrator in the public schools or~~

1 ~~a licensed teacher or administrator applying for a license in an additional~~
2 ~~area shall take and complete a test recognized by the National Council for~~
3 ~~Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the State Board of~~
4 ~~Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education.~~

5 ~~(B) No applicant for initial licensure or licensure in an~~
6 ~~additional area shall receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless the~~
7 ~~applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of~~
8 ~~Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional~~
9 ~~Licensure Standards Board.~~

10 ~~(C)(d)(1) The state board shall approve the methods required for~~
11 ~~applicants to meet the requirements of this section.~~

12 ~~(2) All colleges, and universities, and other state-approved~~
13 ~~programs that prepare teachers and administrators for licensure in this state~~
14 ~~shall report the results of the examinations any assessments required for~~
15 ~~licensure to the department upon request.~~

16 ~~(e)(e) The State Board of Education state board shall not delegate to~~
17 ~~any college or university any of the State Board of Education's state board's~~
18 ~~powers or duties pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and~~
19 ~~continuance of licensure of public school teachers and administrators in~~
20 ~~public schools in this state.~~

21 ~~(d)(f)(1) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure of~~
22 ~~individuals through reciprocity of licensure with other states under § 6-17-~~
23 ~~403.~~

24 ~~(2) The State Board of Education state board rules shall waive~~
25 ~~the examination requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an~~
26 ~~individual applying for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-~~
27 ~~state teaching license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as~~
28 ~~required by the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.~~

29 ~~(g) The state board may establish by rule minimum qualified teacher~~
30 ~~requirements for teachers employed where licensure has been waived pursuant~~
31 ~~to law.~~

32 ~~(h) Rules of the state board shall identify the following as core~~
33 ~~licensure content areas:~~

34 ~~(1) Early Childhood (K-6);~~

35 ~~(2) English language arts;~~

36 ~~(3) Mathematics;~~

- 1 (4) Science;
 2 (5) Social studies;
 3 (6) Art;
 4 (7) Music; and
 5 (8) Foreign language.

6
 7 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409 is amended to read as follows:
 8 6-17-409. ~~Nontraditional licensure~~ Alternative educator preparation
 9 programs.

10 (a) As used in this section, "alternative educator preparation .
 11 program" means a program of study approved by the Department of Education for
 12 candidates holding a bachelor's degree who are preparing for licensure as
 13 teachers and leaders in public schools in this state.

14 (b)(1) The State Board of Education may offer and operate a
 15 ~~nontraditional licensure~~ an alternative educator preparation program.

16 ~~(b)(1)(2)(A)~~ The Department of Education ~~department~~ may provide
 17 grants of financial assistance to entities that train individuals seeking to
 18 obtain ~~nontraditional~~ licensure through ~~the nontraditional licensure process~~
 19 an alternative educator preparation program administered by the department.

20 ~~(2)(B)~~ The department shall pay the grants from funds
 21 appropriated by the General Assembly to the department for such purpose.

22 ~~(e)(1)(C)~~ The state board shall promulgate rules and
 23 ~~regulations~~ to determine eligibility for and amount of awards of the grants
 24 concerning the operation of the ~~nontraditional licensure~~ alternative educator
 25 preparation program authorized by this section and for such other purposes as
 26 may be necessary in carrying out the intent of this section.

27 ~~(2)(3)~~ The department may refuse to admit for enrollment in the
 28 ~~nontraditional licensure~~ alternative educator preparation program
 29 administered by the department a person who has been dismissed from a teacher
 30 education program at an institution of higher education.

31 ~~(d)(4)~~ If the state board requires an applicant for
 32 ~~nontraditional~~ licensure through an alternative educator preparation program
 33 to complete one (1) or more additional college-level courses and the
 34 applicant has obtained a bachelor's degree, the required course or courses
 35 shall meet ~~one (1) or more of the following conditions:~~

36 ~~(1)(A)~~ ~~Each course shall be offered at every state supported,~~

1 ~~two-year institution of higher education.~~

2 ~~(B) If more than one (1) course is required, all courses~~
3 ~~shall be offered in a one-semester block; or~~

4 ~~(2) Each course shall be available as an online course, a~~
5 ~~traditional face-to-face course, or a hybrid course that is part online~~
6 ~~instruction and part face-to-face instruction, as approved by the department.~~

7 ~~(c)(1) As used in this subsection, "accelerated teaching program"~~
8 ~~means a program intended for college graduates that provides intensive~~
9 ~~training and support for a period of two (2) or more years for teaching and~~
10 ~~leading in schools.~~

11 ~~(2) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching~~
12 ~~license to an applicant if the applicant has:~~

13 ~~(A) Either:~~

14 ~~(i) Successfully completed an accelerated teaching~~
15 ~~program, including:~~

16 (c) The state board may promulgate rules for the requirements for
17 educator licensure through other alternative educator preparation programs,
18 including without limitation:

19 (1) A teacher or leader academy;

20 (2) A residency program at a public school, which may be in
21 partnership with an educator preparation program at an institution of higher
22 education;

23 ~~(a)(3) The Teach For America, Inc., program;~~

24 ~~(b)(4) The Arkansas Teacher Corps program offered by of the~~
25 ~~University of Arkansas at Fayetteville;~~

26 ~~(e)(5) The American Board for the Certification of Teacher~~
27 ~~Excellence program; or~~

28 ~~(d)(6) Another accelerated teaching alternative educator~~
29 ~~preparation program approved by the department; or~~

30 ~~(ii)(7) Been awarded A program conferring a master's degree in~~
31 ~~teaching from an accredited program at an institution of higher education;~~
32 ~~and or~~

33 (8) An alternative educator preparation program or pathway for
34 an applicant who has professional work experience in the content area in
35 which the applicant desires to obtain a license.

36 ~~(B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and~~

1 ~~Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410.~~

2 ~~(3)(A)(d)(1)~~ The state board shall issue to an applicant who is in an
3 ~~accelerated teaching alternative educator preparation~~ program a provisional
4 teaching license that is issued under the state board's rules governing
5 provisional licensure ~~for nontraditional licensure applicants.~~

6 ~~(B)(2)~~ The provisional license is valid for the entire period
7 that the applicant is:

8 ~~(i)(A)~~ Participating Is participating in the ~~accelerated~~
9 ~~teaching alternative educator preparation~~ program;

10 ~~(B)~~ Has not been determined to have an ethics violation
11 under § 6-17-428; and

12 ~~(ii)(C)~~ Teaching Is teaching in an Arkansas public school.

13 ~~(4)(e)~~ The state board may require an applicant ~~who meets the criteria~~
14 ~~of subdivision (e)(2) of~~ for licensure under this section to submit proof of
15 the following academic eligibility:

16 ~~(A)(i)(1)(A)~~ Passing scores, as set by the state board, on
17 state-required ~~basic skills,~~ pedagogical, and content-area assessments, or
18 their substantial equivalents.

19 ~~(ii)(B)~~ As used in this subdivision (e)(1), "substantial
20 equivalents" includes without limitation the assessments required by the
21 American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence program and an
22 alternative method of demonstrating subject matter content competency
23 identified by the state board under § 6-15-1004;

24 ~~(2)~~ Successful completion of professional educator ethics
25 training identified by rules of the state board; and

26 ~~(B)(i)(3)~~ If As required by state board rules for the grade
27 level and content area for which the applicant seeks licensure, successful
28 completion of courses in Arkansas history or reading and writing in content
29 areas, or both.

30 ~~(ii)~~ ~~An applicant who has successfully completed an~~
31 ~~accelerated teaching program is exempt from the requirement of courses in~~
32 ~~reading and writing in content areas.~~

33 ~~(5)(f)~~ No academic or experience requirements for obtaining an
34 Arkansas teaching license in addition to those identified in ~~this subsection~~
35 ~~(e)~~ subsections (c)-(e) of this section shall be imposed on an applicant who
36 has completed one of the programs under subdivision (c)(3)-(5) and who

1 otherwise meets the requirements of this subsection ~~(e)~~ section by:

2 (A) The state board;

3 (B) The department; or

4 (C) An Arkansas state-funded college or university.

5 ~~(f)(1) The state board shall issue a nonrenewable three year~~
6 ~~provisional professional teaching license to an applicant who submits to the~~
7 ~~department the following:~~

8 ~~(A) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of~~
9 ~~at least a baccalaureate degree;~~

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

12 ~~(C) Evidence of an offer of employment to teach classes~~
13 ~~for credit in an Arkansas public school;~~

14 ~~(D) A statement of justification from the applicant~~
15 ~~relating the applicant's experience to teaching in the content area in which~~
16 ~~the applicant seeks to teach;~~

17 ~~(E) Two (2) professional letters of recommendation~~
18 ~~submitted by the applicant's references;~~

19 ~~(F) Passing scores on the state required basic skills and~~
20 ~~content knowledge tests for the content area in which the applicant seeks to~~
21 ~~teach; and~~

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

24 ~~(2)(A) An individual who receives a three-year provisional~~
25 ~~teaching license under this subsection shall have in the first year of~~
26 ~~provisional licensure twenty four (24) hours of training in pedagogy as~~
27 ~~determined by the Department of Education.~~

28 ~~(B) The twenty-four (24) hours of training in pedagogy are~~
29 ~~in addition to and not considered a part of the professional development~~
30 ~~required for teachers by their employing school district or public school.~~

31 ~~(3) At the end of each year of provisional licensure, the~~
32 ~~licensee shall undergo a summative evaluation as required by Arkansas law.~~

33 ~~(4) At the end of three (3) years of provisional licensure, the~~
34 ~~state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license to the licensee~~
35 ~~if the licensee:~~

36 ~~(A) Submits passing scores on the state-required~~

1 ~~pedagogical assessment or its substantial equivalent for the content area in~~
2 ~~which the applicant seeks to teach;~~

3 ~~(B) Is identified by the employing school district as~~
4 ~~proficient or above on a summative evaluation under § 6-17-2805 for the third~~
5 ~~year of provisional licensure; and~~

6 ~~(C) Is recommended for full licensure by the~~
7 ~~superintendent of the employing school district.~~

8 (g) Each applicant for a provisional license under this section shall
9 successfully complete the criminal records checks and Child Maltreatment
10 Central Registry check under § 6-17-410 before the department may issue the
11 license.

12
13 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403(a), concerning the minimum salary
14 schedule required of school districts, is amended to read as follows:

15 (a)(i) The board of directors in each school district in the state
16 shall pay classroom teachers upon a minimum salary schedule that provides:

17 ~~(1)(A) Annual increments for education and experience;~~

18 ~~(2)(B) A base salary; and~~

19 ~~(3)(C) A minimum salary for a teacher with a master's~~
20 ~~degree and at least fifteen (15) years' experience.~~

21 (2)(A) A school district may differentiate in the salary levels
22 of the minimum teacher compensation schedule to provide increased salaries
23 based on a tiered licensure system established by the State Board of
24 Education under § 6-17-402.

25 (B) The differentiated salary schedule shall not provide
26 for a salary that is below the minimum set out in this section.

27
28 /s/Vaught

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31 APPROVED: 02/28/2017

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H2/24/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 328

5 By: Senators A. Clark, J. English, Hester
6 By: Representatives C. Douglas, Gates, Cozart
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON *WHO APPLIES* FOR AN
10 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION K-6 TEACHING LICENSE OR A
11 SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO
12 SUCCESSFULLY PASS A STAND-ALONE READING TEST AND A
13 MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A CONDITION OF LICENSURE; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16
17
18 TO REQUIRE A PERSON *WHO APPLIES* FOR A K-6
19 TEACHING LICENSE OR A SPECIAL EDUCATION
20 K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO SUCCESSFULLY
21 PASS A STAND-ALONE READING TEST AND A
22 MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A CONDITION OF
23 LICENSURE.
24
25

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
27

28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-17-402 and 6-17-403 are amended to read
29 as follows:

30 6-17-402. Rules ~~and regulations~~.

31 (a) The State Board of Education shall issue the license of a
32 classroom teacher, an administrator, a guidance counselor, or a library media
33 specialist.

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



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

2 (i) A person applying for ~~initial first-time~~
3 licensure as a ~~secondary level~~ teacher or ~~as an~~ administrator in the public
4 schools or a licensed ~~secondary level~~ teacher, a licensed elementary general
5 education teacher, or ~~an~~ administrator applying for a license in an
6 additional area shall take and complete a test ~~recognized by the National~~
7 Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the State
8 Board of Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education; and

9 (ii)(a) A person applying for first-time licensure
10 for an elementary education (K-6) license or a special education (K-12)
11 license shall take and pass a:

12 (1) Subject matter content assessment;

13 (2) Pedagogy assessment; and

14 (3) Stand-alone assessment that examines
15 the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading
16 instruction based on the science of reading.

17 (b) The requirements under subdivision
18 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section shall apply to a person who:

19 (1) Enters a teacher preparation program
20 beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter for a first-time
21 elementary level K-6 license or special education K-12 license or
22 endorsement; and

23 (2) Upon adoption of the stand-alone
24 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section, is
25 seeking to add the elementary education (K-6) license level by testing out.

26 (c) A person who enters an alternative
27 educator preparation program beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year and
28 receives an elementary education (K-6) provisional license or a special
29 education (K-12) provisional license shall take and pass the stand-alone
30 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section in
31 order to receive a standard license.

32 (d)(1) The recommendation for the adoption of
33 a stand-alone reading assessment shall be made by a diverse group of
34 stakeholders.

35 (2) The stakeholders shall recommend a
36 testing company for the stand-alone reading assessment that provides an

1 extensive practice test that enables prospective teachers to practice the
2 kinds of skills taught in their teacher preparation programs so they can
3 learn how to teach reading skills and diagnose reading problems.

4 (e) The stand-alone reading assessment adopted
5 by the state board shall:

6 (1) Include an adequate number of
7 assessment items to ensure instructional knowledge of reading that is based
8 on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

9 (2) Ensure that at least fifty percent
10 (50%) of the items assess instructional knowledge for beginning reading and
11 are based on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

12 (3) Include at least one (1) open-
13 response question so that test takers can indicate how well they can
14 demonstrate in writing their diagnostic interpretation of student reading
15 errors; and

16 (4) Include a clear distinction between
17 reading elements in and skills needed for literary and formation texts in
18 order to address the English language arts standards as determined by the
19 state board.

20 (f) The state board shall determine the cut
21 score for the stand-alone reading assessment with strong consideration based
22 on the national mean if the national mean is not less than seventy percent
23 (70%) correct answers on the stand-alone reading assessment.

24 (B) No An applicant for initial licensure or licensure in
25 an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless the
26 applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of
27 Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional
28 Licensure Standards Board.

29 (C) All colleges and universities in this state The
30 teacher preparation programs for licensure in this state shall report the
31 results of the examinations to the department upon request.

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

36 (d)(1) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination

1 requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an individual applying
2 for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-state teaching
3 license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by
4 the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

5 (2) A teacher who has fewer than three (3) years' documented
6 teaching experience shall have up to three (3) years to pass the stand-alone
7 reading assessment, during which the teacher may work under a provisional
8 license.

9

10 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in
11 other states.

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

17 (b)(1) ~~Any A~~ person who has not successfully completed the licensure
18 ~~examination designated by the state board tests required~~ under ~~§ 6-17-601 et~~
19 ~~seq. § 6-17-402~~ and who has not previously held an Arkansas standard license
20 but meets degree, course work, and experience requirements for a standard
21 license and who otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this
22 state may receive a ~~one-year~~ three-year nonrenewable provisional license and
23 be employed by any public school district in this state for a period not to
24 exceed ~~one (1) year~~ three (3) years while completing the professional
25 development, coursework, or training necessary to successfully pass the
26 stand-alone reading assessment under § 6-17-402.

27 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
28 successfully completed the ~~examination~~ licensure tests required under § 6-17-
29 402 shall not be penalized by the state board provided that the length of
30 employment of the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

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

34 (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas
35 equivalent that:

36 (A) Was issued in another state; and

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

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

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

7 ~~(4) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~
8 ~~licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented~~
9 ~~teaching experience~~ Successful completion of the licensure tests required
10 under § 6-17-402;

11 (5) Completion of a program for:

12 (A) Teacher education at a nationally or regionally
13 accredited institution of higher education;

14 (B) Teacher education nationally accredited by an
15 accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
16 Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or the Council for
17 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

18 (C) Certification from the National Board for Professional
19 Teaching Standards; and

20 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

21
22 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(2), concerning nontraditional
23 teacher licensure, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
24 follows:

25 (C) Successfully completed the licensure tests required
26 under § 6-17-402.

27
28 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and
29 confidentiality of test scores, is amended to read as follows:

30 (a)(1) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of this~~
31 ~~subchapter and § 6-17-402~~ shall not be disclosed but shall be retained by the
32 Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the Freedom of
33 Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act ~~which~~ that
34 would require the disclosure thereof.

35 (2) However, the department shall provide each licensee with
36 that person's test score and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of

1 the test.

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/s/A. Clark

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APPROVED: 03/07/2017

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1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1591

4
5 By: Representative Vaught
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE
9 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.

Subtitle

11
12
13 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING THE
14 PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD.
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17

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

20 SECTION 1. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-17-
21 422(b)(1), concerning the membership of the Professional Licensure Standards
22 Board, is amended to read as follows:

23 (b)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall consist of
24 ~~sixteen (16)~~ twenty (20) members appointed by the State Board of Education as
25 follows:
26

27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(b)(1)(C), concerning the
28 membership of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (C)(i) Four (4) public school classroom teachers with
31 valid Arkansas teaching licenses who are recommended by the Arkansas
32 Education Association, and who teach at:

33 ~~(i)(a)~~ (a) A licensure level of birth to
34 kindergarten;

35 ~~(i)(b)~~ (b) A licensure level of kindergarten
36 through grade six (K-6);



1 ~~(iii)~~(c) A licensure level of grades four
 2 through eight (4-8); and

3 ~~(iv)~~(d) A licensure level of grades seven
 4 through twelve (7-12); and

5 (ii) Two (2) public school classroom teachers with
 6 valid Arkansas teaching licenses who:

7 (a) Are recommended by the Arkansas State
 8 Teachers Association; and

9 (b) Teach at any licensure level;

10
 11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(b)(1), concerning the membership
 12 of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to add additional
 13 subdivisions to read as follows:

14 (I) One (1) teacher or administrator recommended by the
 15 Arkansas Public School Resource Center who is currently employed under a
 16 waiver from licensure as a teacher of record or an administrator; and

17 (J) One (1) public school administrator with a valid
 18 Arkansas teaching and building-level or district-level administrator's
 19 license recommended by the Arkansas Rural Education Association;

20
 21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(2) and (3), concerning the
 22 duties of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as
 23 follows:

24 (2)(A) With the assistance of the Department of Education and
 25 the Department of Higher Education, ~~review the audits of the teacher~~
 26 ~~education programs offered by all institutions of higher education in the~~
 27 ~~state to determine if the institutions' teacher education programs and~~
 28 ~~courses of study are aligned as necessary to allow graduates of the teacher~~
 29 ~~education program to become licensed under this act and the rules set by the~~
 30 State Board of Education develop a system for the annual reporting and review
 31 of educator preparation program quality.

32 (B) The system may include without limitation:

33 (i) Data reporting and analysis on:

34 (a) Program graduate employment outcomes;

35 (b) Survey outcomes; and

36 (c) Public school student learning outcomes;

1 (ii) Accreditation or state approval; and

2 (iii) Program quality ratings;

3 ~~(B)(i)(a) To ensure alignment with standards in university~~
4 ~~course syllabi for licensure, the Department of Education shall conduct~~
5 ~~audits of licensure programs of study at all Arkansas institutions of higher~~
6 ~~education.~~

7 ~~(b) The audits shall use state standards or~~
8 ~~national standards for licensure programs, or a combination of both.~~

9 ~~(ii) The audits shall be conducted on a seven-year~~
10 ~~cycle beginning on July 1, 2016, and provided to the Professional Licensure~~
11 ~~Standards Board.~~

12 ~~(iii)(a) Institutions of higher education that do~~
13 ~~not comply with the Department of Education's audit findings and~~
14 ~~recommendations shall have two (2) full semesters to provide to the~~
15 ~~Department of Education for its review and approval a plan to bring programs~~
16 ~~into compliance with the audit recommendations and submit documentation of~~
17 ~~compliance to the Professional Licensure Standards Board by the end of the~~
18 ~~next full academic year following the date of the plan approval.~~

19 ~~(b) If the institution of higher education~~
20 ~~does not bring its program into compliance with audit recommendations, the~~
21 ~~Professional Licensure Standards Board shall submit a recommendation to the~~
22 ~~State Board of Education for discontinuance of the authority of the~~
23 ~~institution to offer the licensure program; and~~

24 (3)(A)(i) Establish a code of ethics for administrators and
25 teachers, including those employed under a waiver from licensure as a teacher
26 of record or as an administrator, in educational environments for students in
27 prekindergarten through grade twelve (preK-12), including procedures and
28 recommendations for enforcement as provided in this subdivision (h)(3).

29 (ii) For educators employed under a waiver from
30 licensure as a teacher of record or as an administrator, the procedures and
31 recommendations for enforcement shall consist of procedures and public
32 notifications equivalent to the levels of recommended sanctions for licensed
33 educators.

34 (B) Upon the approval of the code of ethics, procedures,
35 and recommendations for enforcement required by this subdivision (h)(3),:

36 (i) the The valid Arkansas teaching license of any

1 person shall be subject to the conditions, requirements, and mandates of the
 2 code of ethics, procedures, and recommendations for enforcement; and

3 (ii) For an educator employed under a waiver from
 4 licensure as a teacher of record or as an administrator, the educator shall
 5 be subject to the conditions, requirements, and mandates of the code of
 6 ethics, procedures, and recommendations for enforcement, including the public
 7 notifications under subdivision (h)(3)(A)(ii).

8 (C)(i) The Professional Licensure Standards Board may
 9 recommend to the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education
 10 may approve the monetary fees to be paid by a person for the issuance,
 11 reissuance, fine, or penalty associated with the process, procedures, or
 12 enforcement of requirements necessary to issue or maintain an Arkansas
 13 teaching license.

14 (ii) Under no circumstances shall any one (1)
 15 specific fee or fine exceed ~~one hundred dollars (\$100)~~ five hundred dollars
 16 (\$500).

17 (iii) Revenue collected by the State Board of
 18 Education from the fees and fines under this subdivision (h)(3)(C) shall be
 19 used for the operation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board; and
 20

21 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(a)(2), concerning the definition
 22 of "educator" for the purpose of ethical violations, is amended to read as
 23 follows:

24 (2) "Educator" means:

25 (A) A person holding a valid Arkansas standard teaching
 26 license, ancillary license, provisional license, technical permit, or
 27 administrator's license issued by the State Board of Education; ~~or~~

28 (B) A preservice teacher; or

29 (C) An individual employed under a waiver from licensure
 30 as a teacher of record or as an administrator;

31
 32 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(b)(1), concerning the duties of
 33 the Professional Licensure Standards Board regarding ethical violations, is
 34 amended to read as follows:

35 (b)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

36 (A) Establish procedures for:

- 1 (i) Receiving and investigating an ethics complaint;
- 2 (ii) Enforcing the code of ethics; and
- 3 (iii) Granting and conducting hearings under this
- 4 section; and

5 (iv) Publicizing notifications equivalent to the
 6 recommendations for enforcement of the code of ethics;

7 (B) Make recommendations for enforcement of the code of
 8 ethics; and

9 (C) Develop public notifications equivalent to the
 10 recommendations for enforcement of the code of ethics; and

11 (D) Establish an ethics subcommittee of the Professional
 12 Licensure Standards Board with equal representation of public school teachers
 13 and administrators as well as one (1) member from any other category of
 14 representation on the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

15
 16 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(p)(3), concerning the reporting of
 17 sexual abuse of a student, is amended to read as follows:

18 (3)(A)(i) ~~By March 1, 2014, the~~ The department shall establish
 19 and maintain a website providing a school hiring officer with the ability to
 20 determine if the State Board of Education has acted upon an ethics complaint
 21 concerning a violation of the standard in subdivision (p)(2)(A) of this
 22 section involving the sexual abuse of a student by an applicant for
 23 employment who holds an Arkansas teaching or administrator's license or an
 24 individual intending to be employed under a waiver from licensure as a
 25 teacher of record or as an administrator.

26 (ii) The website shall identify the action taken on
 27 the ethics complaint.

28 (B) ~~Beginning March 1, 2014, before~~ Before an educator who
 29 holds an Arkansas teaching license or administrator's license or an
 30 individual intending to be employed under a waiver from licensure as a
 31 teacher of record or as an administrator may be hired for employment at an
 32 Arkansas school, the school hiring officer shall check the website maintained
 33 by the department under subdivision (p)(3)(A) of this section to determine
 34 whether the State Board of Education has acted upon a violation of the
 35 standard in subdivision (p)(2)(A) of this section involving the sexual abuse
 36 of a student by the applicant.

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APPROVED: 03/22/2017

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1552

5 By: Representative McNair
6 By: Senator A. Clark
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ALTER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LIFETIME
10 TEACHING LICENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 TO ALTER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LIFETIME
13 TEACHING LICENSE.
14

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

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2603 is amended to read as follows:
21 6-17-2603. Eligibility.

22 To be eligible for a lifetime teaching license, the licensed educator
23 must:

24 (1) Hold a current or expired Arkansas teaching license;

25 (2) Be either:

26 (A) at At least sixty-two (62) years of age; or

27 (B) Retired from active teaching under §§ 24-7-701, 24-7-
28 702, or 24-7-704; and

29 (3) Have either:

30 (A) Worked in an educational setting while maintaining an
31 Arkansas teaching license; or

32 (B) Made significant contributions to education,
33 educational research, or the profession of teaching through scholarly
34 endeavors, teaching experience, excellence in teaching, or educational
35 innovation.
36



1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2605(c), concerning professional
2 development for a lifetime teaching license holder, is repealed.

3 ~~(c) A lifetime teaching license holder who has not taught in an~~
4 ~~educational setting for one (1) or more years shall be required to provide to~~
5 ~~the Department of Education verification of twenty (20) hours of professional~~
6 ~~development prior to reentering the educational setting.~~

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APPROVED: 03/23/2017

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: S3/14/17
A Bill

SENATE BILL 502

5 By: Senator Elliott
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE RIGHT TO READ ACT; TO REQUIRE
9 LICENSED TEACHERS AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL TO BE
10 PROFICIENT IN SCIENTIFIC READING INSTRUCTION; TO
11 REQUIRE ALL OTHER LICENSED TEACHERS TO HAVE A CURSORY
12 KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENTIFIC READING INSTRUCTION; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14

15
16 **Subtitle**

17 TO CREATE THE RIGHT TO READ ACT.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

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

24 6-17-429. Right to Read Act.

25 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Right to Read
26 Act".

27 (b)(1)(A) No later than 2023, the following shall have proficient
28 knowledge and skills to teach reading consistent with the best practices of
29 scientific reading instruction:

30 (i) A person who completes a state-approved educator
31 preparation program; and

32 (ii) A person seeking teacher licensure by
33 reciprocity or by adding an endorsement.

34 (B) No later than 2023, a person who completes a state-
35 approved educator preparation program other than a teacher of elementary
36 education program shall demonstrate an awareness of the best practices of



1 scientific reading instruction.

2 (2) Beginning no later than the 2022-2023 school year, each
3 state-approved educator preparation program shall post on its website
4 information describing its program to prepare teachers to teach reading using
5 scientific reading instruction aligned with but not limited to the content
6 measured by the stand-alone reading assessment adopted by the State Board of
7 Education under § 6-17-402.

8 (c)(1) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, a public school
9 district and an open-enrollment public charter school shall provide the
10 following professional development in scientific reading instruction:

11 (A) For teachers licensed at the elementary level,
12 professional development for one (1) of the prescribed pathways to obtaining
13 a proficiency credential in knowledge and practices in scientific reading
14 instruction; and

15 (B) For teachers licensed at a level other than the
16 elementary level, professional development for one (1) of the prescribed
17 pathways to obtaining an awareness credential in knowledge and practices in
18 scientific reading instruction.

19 (2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, a public school
20 that does not provide the professional development under subdivision (c)(1)
21 of this section shall:

22 (A) Be placed in probationary status; and

23 (B) Provide notice to parents that the public school
24 district has not met the requirements of this section.

25 (d)(1) By the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

26 (A) All teachers employed in a teaching position that
27 requires an elementary education (K-6) license or special education (K-12)
28 license shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of
29 scientific reading instruction; and

30 (B) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in
31 knowledge and practices of the scientific reading instruction.

32 (2) All teachers who begin employment in the 2021-2022 school
33 year and each school year thereafter shall demonstrate proficiency or
34 awareness in knowledge and practices in scientific reading instruction as is
35 applicable to their teaching position by completing the prescribed
36 proficiency or awareness in knowledge and practices of the scientific reading

1 instruction credential either:

2 (A) As a condition of licensure; or

3 (B) Within one (1) year if the teacher is:

4 (i) Already licensed; or

5 (ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.

6 (e) A provider of a state-approved educator preparation program shall
7 include in its annual report to the Department of Education a description of
8 the provider's program to prepare educators to teach reading using scientific
9 reading instruction.

10 (f)(1)(A) A public school district that employs an educator in
11 violation of this section or that does not provide the professional
12 development as required under this section shall be in violation of the
13 Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Schools Districts
14 and may be placed in probationary status by the department.

15 (B) A public school district placed in probationary status
16 under subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section shall send written notification
17 to the parents of the students in the public school district of the reason
18 for being placed in probationary status.

19 (2) A provider of a state-approved educator preparation program
20 that does not comply with the requirements of this section may be subject to
21 penalties up to and including having the provider's approval status revoked.

22 (g)(1) The department is vested with the authority to and shall
23 enforce this section.

24 (2) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this
25 section.

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/s/Elliott

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APPROVED: 04/06/2017

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