State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021  

A Bill  

By: Senator Irvin  
By: Representative Vaught  

For An Act To Be Entitled  

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO READ ACT; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.  

Subtitle  

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO READ ACT.  

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

SECTION 1.  Arkansas Code § 6-17-429(d), concerning the Right to Read  
Act, is amended to read as follows:  
(d)(1)  By the beginning of the 2021-2022 2023-2024 school year:  
(A)(i)  All teachers employed in a classroom teaching  
position that requires an elementary education (K-6) license or special  
education (K-12) license a license to teach elementary students in grades  
kindergarten through six (K-6) or a license to teach special education for  
students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) shall demonstrate  
proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction;  
and  

(ii)  A teacher described in subdivision (d)(1)(A)(i)  
of this section who has not demonstrated proficiency by the 2023-2024 school  
year may be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency by being  
placed in an intensive support status under § 6-17-2807 for a period of time  
specified by the teacher's evaluator in the professional growth plan for the  
teacher; and
(B) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction.

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

(A) As a condition of licensure; or

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

   (i) Already licensed; or

   (ii) Employed under a waiver from licensure.

/s/Irvin

APPROVED: 3/25/21