

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2009-006

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S2/23/09

87th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL 394

By: Senators J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, Madison

By: Representatives *M. Martin, M. Burris*, Cheatham

Filed with: Senate Interim Committee on Education
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW PERSONS WITH A BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE TO TEACH IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD TO DEVELOP REQUIREMENTS FOR A BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES FOR A BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW PERSONS WITH A BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE TO TEACH IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Education, Professional Licensure Standards Board, Department of Higher Education, and institutions of higher education



1 in this state work together to provide the education and new licensure
2 structure to prepare persons completing a four-year postsecondary degree in
3 early childhood education, child development, early childhood special
4 education, or a related degree meeting birth-through-kindergarten teaching
5 licensure requirements to:

6 (1) Obtain a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license; and

7 (2) Prepare the applicant with specialized knowledge and skills
8 to teach young children from birth through kindergarten, including special
9 needs children.

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11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-401(b), concerning teacher licensing
12 requirements, is amended to read as follows:

13 (b) ~~Any person who shall teach~~ A person who teaches in a public school
14 in this state ~~shall only be entitled to~~ may only receive ~~any~~ compensation
15 from the school funds for ~~such~~ his or her teaching services if the person
16 has:

17 (1) A valid license issued by the state board; ~~or~~

18 (2) If the person teaches children enrolled in prekindergarten
19 and kindergarten programs at an Arkansas public school, an education service
20 cooperative, or an early childhood program accredited and funded under the
21 Arkansas Better Chance Program, § 6-45-101 et seq., a valid license issued by
22 the state board that may be a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license
23 that is separate from the standard teaching license; or

24 (3) Other documentation from the Office of Professional
25 Licensure of the Department of Education authorizing employment as a teacher
26 under the conditions set forth by the Department of Education in the
27 documentation.

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29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(1), concerning the duties of
30 the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as follows:

31 (h) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

32 (1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of
33 Education minimum college level preparatory and grade point average
34 requirements for all teachers applying for ~~initial licensure~~ an initial
35 Arkansas teaching license, a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license, or
36 additional licensure after July 1, 2007, that shall include minimum

1 requirements for:

- 2 (A) Course of study;
- 3 (B) Program approval;
- 4 (C) Range of approved hours; and
- 5 (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
- 6 hours;

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8 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. By January 1, 2010, the Professional
9 Licensure Standards Board shall make its recommendations to the State Board
10 of Education for standards and requirements for the birth-through-
11 kindergarten teaching license. By April 1, 2010, the State Board of
12 Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act for
13 the birth-through-kindergarten teaching license.

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15 /s/ J. Jeffress

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Filed Date: 04/01/2009 By: CLR|VJF