

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1284

By: Representative Newman, Cabe, Pollan and Turner

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-17-402 TO GRANT  
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE AUTHORITY TO  
COLLECT A FEE TO COVER THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF TEACHING CERTIFICATES;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-17-402 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"6-17-402. Rules and regulations-National Teacher's Examination. (a) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the issuance, certification, recertification, and continuance of certification of teachers in the public schools of this state. Any person applying for initial certification as a teacher in the public schools or a certified teacher applying for certification in an additional area shall, in addition to other requirements, take and complete the National Teacher's Examination or a similar examination designated by the State Board of Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education.

(b) No application for initial certification or certification in an additional area shall receive a certificate unless the applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of Education.

(c) All colleges and universities in this state shall report the results of the examinations to the Department of Education upon request.

(d) (1) The Department of Education shall have the authority to collect a reasonable fee from applicants for the issuance of initial, additional, or renewed teaching certificates. The amount of such fee shall be determined by the State Board of Education but may not exceed \$25.00 for initial certification, \$25.00 for additional certification, and \$25.00 for renewal of an existing certification.

(2) All funds collected by the Department of Education pursuant to this Act shall be deposited in the State Treasury as special revenues and credited to the Department of Education Fund, and shall be used exclusively to help defray the costs associated with the certification process. Before the close of each fiscal year the Chief Fiscal Officer shall determine the amount of funds which will remain at the end of each fiscal year in the Department of Education Fund from fees collected under the provisions of this Act and shall allow such funds to be carried forward and made available for the same purposes in the next fiscal year."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined by the Seventy-Seventh General Assembly that the costs of the teacher certification process should be borne by the applicants for certification, and that the Department of Education currently has no authority to charge fees for certification. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 1989.