

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.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2062

4
5 By: Representatives C. Johnson, White
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEACHER CENTER; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEACHER
14 CENTER.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. (a)(1) There is established within the Department of
20 Education, the Arkansas Teacher Center for the purpose of ensuring that the
21 children of our state are taught by highly qualified professionals.

22 (2) The center shall serve as an interagency center focused on
23 teacher recruitment, retention, enhanced professional development, and
24 instructional support.

25 (b) The center shall have a staff that shall consist of one (1)
26 director, one (1) administrative assistant, and professional teacher
27 recruiters, and may consist of a pool of qualified licensed teachers.

28 (c) The professional teacher recruiters shall have the following
29 duties:

30 (1) To educate high school students, through oral presentations
31 made on the campuses of all public high schools, and the development,
32 dissemination, and distribution of written materials and video productions,
33 on the importance of teaching as a profession, emphasizing the critical need
34 for teachers in certain geographical areas of the state, and the availability
35 of financial scholarships to college students in exchange for service as a
36 licensed teacher in the geographical critical need area, as identified by the



1 Department of Education;

2 (2) To encourage teacher’s aides and paraprofessionals in the
 3 public schools to pursue a college education that will enable them to become
 4 licensed teachers, and informing all assistant teachers of the availability
 5 of financial scholarships to both full-time and part-time college students
 6 under the state Academic Challenge Scholarship Programs;

7 (3) To actively recruit, both within the state and out-of-state,
 8 teachers to render service to the state as a licensed teacher in a
 9 geographical area of the state, or subject matter area where there exists a
 10 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education,
 11 while receiving a scholarship to pursue a Master of Education degree at an
 12 institution of higher education under the University Assisted Teacher
 13 Recruitment and Retention Grant Program;

14 (4) To actively recruit, both within the state and out-of-state,
 15 nonpracticing licensed teachers to return to the teaching profession to
 16 render service as a licensed teacher in a public school district in a
 17 geographical area of the state, and a subject matter area where there is a
 18 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education;

19 (5) To recruit retired teachers who are willing to teach either
 20 full time or part time in public school programs; and

21 (6) To notify teachers of the availability of incentives
 22 including, but not limited to, special home loans, subject to eligibility,
 23 for persons who render service to the state as a licensed teacher in a
 24 geographical area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
 25 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education.

26 (c)(1) The Arkansas Teacher Center shall recruit teachers to be
 27 employed by the Department of Education for placement in school districts
 28 requesting waivers pursuant to § 6-15-1004.

29 (2)(A) The pool of teachers employed by the Department of
 30 Education shall be available for long-term assignments in school districts
 31 throughout the state that are unable to employ teachers that are certified
 32 in the grade level and subject matter of the class.

33 (B) Placement of the teachers employed by the Department
 34 of Education shall be as deemed necessary by the Department of Education.

35 (3) Teachers employed by the Arkansas Teacher Center of the
 36 Department of Education shall be exempt from the teacher salary schedules and

1 may be paid in accordance with the schedule adopted by the Department of
2 Education. The department may adopt a salary schedule necessary to attract
3 and retain teachers for the purposes of this subsection (c).

4 (4) The cost of employment of teachers to be placed in districts
5 requesting waivers pursuant to § 6-15-1004 shall be charged to the school
6 district by the Department of Education.

7 (d) The Arkansas Teacher Center shall also provide leadership for the
8 following initiatives:

9 (1) The initiation and monitoring of high school programs for
10 teacher recruitment;

11 (2) The initiation and monitoring of college level programs for
12 teacher recruitment;

13 (3) Provide additional scholarships for any targeted populations
14 needing potential teachers;

15 (4) Provide assistance to local school districts in identifying
16 and locating specific teacher needs;

17 (5) Provide leadership and assistance to schools for developing
18 Teachers of Tomorrow programs and future teacher clubs;

19 (6) Coordinate an annual teacher recruitment conference; and

20 (7) Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects.

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