

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
4

As Engrossed: H3/28/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2062

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

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

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS TEACHER
13 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, an office for the purpose of teacher recruitment for ensuring that
21 the children of our state are taught by highly qualified professionals.

22 (2) The office shall serve as an interagency center focused on
23 teacher recruitment and retention.

24 (b) The office shall have the following duties:

25 (1) To develop, disseminate, and distribute written materials
26 and video productions, on the importance of teaching as a profession,
27 emphasizing the critical need for teachers in certain geographical areas of
28 the state, and the availability of financial scholarships to college students
29 in exchange for service as a licensed teacher in the geographical critical
30 need area, as identified by the Department of Education to assist the
31 Department of Higher Education;

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



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

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

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

15 (6) To notify teachers of the availability of incentives
16 including, but not limited to, *forgivable loans, scholarships,* for persons
17 who render service to the state as a licensed teacher in a geographical area
18 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers in a subject
19 matter area experiencing a shortage of teachers as designated by the State
20 Board of Education.

21 (c) The Arkansas Teacher Center shall also provide leadership for the
22 following initiatives:

23 (1) The initiation and monitoring of high school programs for
24 teacher recruitment;

25 (2) The initiation and monitoring of college level programs for
26 teacher recruitment;

27 (3) Provide additional scholarships for any *targeted populations*
28 or *geographical areas of the state* needing potential teachers;

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

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

33 (6) Coordinate an annual teacher recruitment conference;

34 (7) Promote Grow Your Own Teacher projects.

35 (8) Assist two-year colleges with developing articulation
36 agreements with four-year colleges to coordinate programs for students

1 interested in entering the field of teaching;
2 (9) Coordinate teacher recruitment and retention activities with
3 the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.
4 (d) By June 30, 2004 and annually thereafter, the Department of
5 Education shall provide a report to the Governor and the House Interim
6 Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

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/s/ C. Johnson, et al