

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003  
4

*As Engrossed: S1/12/04*  
**A Bill**

Call Item 4

HOUSE BILL 1079

5 By: Representative Cleveland  
6  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE STATE TEACHER ASSISTANCE  
10 RESOURCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

13 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE STATE TEACHER  
14 ASSISTANCE RESOURCE PROGRAM.  
15  
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1502 is amended to read as follows:  
20 6-81-1502. Definitions.

21 For purposes of this subchapter:

22 (1) "Two-year teacher education program" means a program within  
23 a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas that will  
24 introduce students to the profession of teaching;

25 ~~(1)~~(2) "Five-year teacher education program" means a program  
26 within a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas  
27 that will lead to obtaining a teacher certification and is designed for  
28 completion in five (5) years with an award of a master's degree in education;  
29 ~~and~~

30 ~~(2)~~(3) "Four-year teacher education program" means a program  
31 within a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas  
32 that will lead to obtaining a teacher certification and is designed for  
33 completion in four (4) years with an award of a baccalaureate degree in  
34 education; ~~and~~

35 (4)(A) "Master of Arts in Teaching" means a program within a  
36 regionally accredited institution of higher education in Arkansas that will



1 allow graduate students to teach in a middle or secondary school while  
 2 obtaining licensure.

3 (B) "Master of Arts in Teaching" shall include persons who  
 4 are licensed in Arkansas through a program of nontraditional licensure.

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 6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(b), concerning administration of  
 7 and authority of the Department of Higher Education, is amended to read as  
 8 follows:

9 (b) The department shall adopt standards for awarding the forgivable  
 10 loans to ensure that ~~only~~ students in their sophomore, junior, year-and-or  
 11 senior year who are actively pursuing a degree in teaching or are admitted to  
 12 a teacher education program or are enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching  
 13 program with the best potential for success receive a forgivable loan.

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 15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1504(e), concerning administration of  
 16 and authority of the Department of Higher Education, is amended to read as  
 17 follows:

18 (e) The department may determine the necessary procedures for the  
 19 awarding of forgivable loans should the number of eligible applicants and  
 20 recipients exceed the funds available, but priority consideration shall be  
 21 given based on a combination of factors including, but not limited to:

22 (1) Full-time enrollment;

23 (2) Cumulative grade point average;

24 (3) Grade point average in courses required for the major;

25 (4) Subject area of intended teaching licensure;

26 (5) Geographical area in which the applicant or recipient  
 27 intends to teach;

28 (6)(A) Prior loan awards.

29 (B) Prior recipients who remain qualified shall receive  
 30 priority for future awards;

31 (7) Students enrolled in two-year teacher education programs;  
 32 and

33 (8) Students enrolled in Master of Arts in Teaching programs.

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 35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1505 is amended to read as follows:  
 36 6-81-1505. Eligibility.

1 A student entering his or her sophomore, junior, or senior year and  
2 actively pursuing or admitted to a teacher education program shall be eligible  
3 to receive a forgivable loan under the State Teacher Assistance Resource  
4 Program if:

5 (1) The recipient earns a cumulative grade point average of 2.75  
6 or above on a 4.0 scale at an approved institution;

7 (2) The recipient has completed ~~a total of at least twenty-seven~~  
8 ~~(27) hours during the first full academic year and a total of at least thirty~~  
9 ~~(30) hours per academic year thereafter~~ at least one (1) year of full-time  
10 postsecondary course work; and

11 ~~(3) The student is entering the junior year and has taken the~~  
12 ~~standardized rising junior test provided for in § 6-61-114; and~~

13 ~~(4)~~(3) The recipient meets any other continuing eligibility  
14 criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

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16 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1506(a), concerning the duration,  
17 amount, and repayment of STAR loans, is amended to read as follows:

18 (a)(1) The State Teacher Assistance Resource Program shall be used to  
19 provide:

20 (A) A ~~two-year~~ forgivable loan ~~if the recipient is in a~~  
21 ~~four-year teacher education program, or a three-year forgivable loan if the~~  
22 ~~recipient is in a five-year teacher education program,~~ in the amount of three  
23 thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year for a sophomore, junior, or senior  
24 actively pursuing a degree in teaching or admitted to a teacher education  
25 program or enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program who commits to  
26 teach in a public school located in a geographical area of the state  
27 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers or in a subject matter  
28 area designated as having a critical shortage of teachers;

29 (B) A two-year forgivable loan if the recipient is in a  
30 four-year teacher education program, or a three-year forgivable loan if the  
31 recipient is in a five-year teacher education program, in the amount of six  
32 thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for a junior or senior admitted to a  
33 teacher education program who commits to teach in a public school located in  
34 a geographical area of the state designated as having a shortage of critical  
35 teachers and in a subject matter area designated as having a critical  
36 shortage of teachers;

1 (C) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the  
2 amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year for each year a certified  
3 teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004  
4 teaches in a public school located in a geographical area of the state  
5 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers; or

6 (D) A loan repayment for federal student loans in the  
7 amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year for each year a certified  
8 teacher who graduated from a teacher education program after April 2004  
9 teaches in a public school located in a geographical area of the state  
10 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers and in a subject matter  
11 designated as having a critical shortage of teachers.

12 (2) The Department of Education shall set the term of the loan  
13 with the goal of assisting the recipient to complete the recipient's teacher  
14 education program.

15 ~~(2)~~(3) No person receiving a forgivable loan under subdivisions  
16 (a)(1)(A) or (B) of this section shall be eligible to receive a loan  
17 repayment under subdivisions (a)(1)(C) or (D) of this section.

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19 /s/ Cleveland  
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