

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

Call Item 4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1131

5 By: Representative C. Johnson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE TIME AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS  
10 FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE SIXTY  
11 (60) HOURS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS AND  
12 ADMINISTRATORS; TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL  
13 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-PRIORITY SCHOOLS  
14 AND DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE TIME AVAILABLE TO  
17 TEACHERS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. (a) For purposes of this section, a "high-priority school  
24 or school district" means a school or school district with:

25 (1) Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of its students scoring  
26 below proficient on fourth grade or eighth grade benchmark exams in the two

27 (2) immediately preceding school years; or

28 (2) Unacceptably wide achievement gaps as determined by the  
29 Department of Education and the Committee on Closing the Achievement Gap.

30 (b)(1) In addition to the professional development days required by  
31 the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools, the state board  
32 shall require professional development hours not to exceed thirty (30) hours  
33 for teachers and administrators, including superintendents, employed by high-  
34 priority schools or districts.

35 (2) Additional professional development hours required for high-  
36 priority schools or school districts shall be provided by the department or



1 its designee at no cost to the school or district.

2 (3) Any teacher or administrator, excluding superintendents,  
3 required to attend additional professional development hours under this  
4 subsection (b), shall be compensated for the extra hours at his or her hourly  
5 rate of pay.

6 (c) Any high-priority school or school district that is required to  
7 pay for additional professional development hours for teachers or  
8 administrators under subsection (b) of this section, shall be entitled to a  
9 teacher professional development supplement as provided by law or state board  
10 rule.

11 (d) The state board shall implement staff development guidelines for  
12 high-priority schools and districts that:

13 (1) Focus on developing subject competency;

14 (2) Ensure that Arkansas' professional development standards are  
15 consistent with the definition of high-quality professional development  
16 contained in the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C.S. § 6301  
17 et seq., as in existence on December 1, 2003;

18 (3) Provide teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators  
19 with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to use the data generated  
20 from student assessments to analyze student performance for the purpose of  
21 identifying and closing achievement gaps;

22 (4) Focus on the analysis and use of data to improve student  
23 achievement and to help high-performing districts unmask their achievement  
24 gaps and to help a high-priority school or district raise the academic  
25 performance of all students; and

26 (5) Require a high-priority school or district to submit its  
27 professional development plans to the Department of Education for review and  
28 approval before receiving a teacher professional development supplement.

29 (e) The state board shall set the long-term goal of having a critical  
30 mass of high quality teachers in every high-priority school and district.

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32 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
33 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court in  
34 Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, 351 Ark. 31 (2002) declared the  
35 current system of education in the state to be unconstitutional because it is  
36 both inequitable and inadequate; and the Arkansas Supreme Court set forth the

1 test for a constitutional system to be one in which the state has an  
2 “absolute duty” to provide an “equal opportunity to an adequate education”;  
3 the Arkansas Supreme Court instructed the General Assembly to undertake  
4 actions as necessary to provide an opportunity for an adequate and equitable  
5 education for the children of Arkansas; and the provisions of this bill are  
6 necessary steps toward accomplishing that goal. Therefore, an emergency is  
7 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective  
9 on:

10 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

11 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
12 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
13 bill; or

14 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
15 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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