

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.

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

As Engrossed: H3/25/05

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2720

By: Representative Mahony

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION; AND THE CREATION OF A COMMISSIONER
OF EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE CREATION
OF A COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-11-102 is amended to read as follows:

6-11-102. Director of the Department of Education.

(a) Subject to confirmation by the Governor, the State Board of Education is empowered to employ a person to act as the ~~Director of the Department of Education~~ Commissioner of Education, who shall serve ~~at the pleasure of the Governor~~ in the best educational interests of the children of the State of Arkansas.

(b) The ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education shall devote all of his or her time to the duties of his or her office, shall act as an agent of the board, and perform other duties as are designated by the board and by statute.

(c)(1) The person selected as the ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education or any person serving as an interim commissioner must:

(A) Be a person of good moral character, recognized as a leader in the field of education, and qualified technically and by experience to direct the work of the Department of Education;



(B) Hold the master's degree from an accredited institution;

(C) Have had ten (10) years' experience as a teacher, five (5) of which must be of an administrative or supervisory nature; and

(D) Hold a valid state teacher's certificate.

(2) No person who is related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the board shall be eligible to serve as ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education.

(d) It is the specific intention of this act to define and declare the ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education to be the employee of the State Board of Education.

(e)(1) The ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education, or a disbursing agent designated by him or her and approved by the board, shall give bond to the State of Arkansas as provided by law for other disbursing agents conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties and the faithful accounting for all the school money of the state, of any county, or of any school district that may come into his or her hands.

(2) The bond shall be in a solvent surety company having a right to do business in the State of Arkansas and shall be approved by the board.

(3) The premium on the bond shall be paid by the board as one of the expenses of the board.

(f) The state shall furnish the ~~director~~ Commissioner of Education with suitable offices.

(g) The person serving as the Director of the Department of Education immediately prior to the effective date of this subdivision (g) shall be the first Commissioner of Education and shall continue to have all the rights, powers, appointments, and duties as are currently assigned to him or her as the Director of the Department of Education.

/s/ Mahony