

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1431

4
5 By: Representatives Blount, Abernathy, Cornwell, Davis, George, Hardy, Harrelson, Kenney, Medley,
6 Pate, Pickett, Pyle, Rainey, Reep, L. Smith, Wills
7 By: Senator Brown

For An Act To Be Entitled

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9
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TEACHER LICENSURE
11 REQUIREMENTS BY CREATING THE LIFETIME TEACHING
12 LICENSE FOR EDUCATORS MAINTAINING A VALID
13 TEACHING LICENSE TO AGE 65; TO HONOR ARKANSAS
14 TEACHERS WHO HAVE MADE LASTING AND SIGNIFICANT
15 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION; AND FOR
16 OTHER PURPOSES.
17

Subtitle

18
19 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TEACHER LICENSURE
20 REQUIREMENTS BY CREATING THE LIFETIME
21 TEACHING LICENSE.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17 is amended to add an
28 additional subchapter to read as follows:

29 6-17-2601. Purpose.

30 The purpose of this subchapter is to provide a Lifetime Teaching
31 License to:

32 (1) Recognize individuals who have made significant
33 contributions to education or the profession of teaching through educational
34 research, scholarly endeavors, excellence in teaching, educational
35 innovation, or years of teaching experience; and

36 (2) Promote role models in the field of education.



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2 6-17-2602. Definitions.

3 As used in this subchapter:

4 (1) "Educational setting" means the employment setting where the
5 certified employee works, including without limitation:

6 (A) A public or private school;

7 (B) An institution of higher education;

8 (C) An education service cooperative;

9 (D) The Department of Education;

10 (E) An adult education setting; or

11 (F) Another agency or organization that employs licensed
12 teachers for educational purposes; and

13 (2) "Professional development" means a coordinated set of
14 planned, learning development activities for teachers that are standards-
15 based and that meet the focus areas for professional development required by
16 the department.

17 (3) "Teaching experience" means the experience gained while
18 working in an educational setting as a teacher, librarian, counselor,
19 administrator, educational consultant, substitute teachers, or other
20 certified employee;

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22 6-17-2603. Eligibility.

23 To be eligible for a lifetime teaching license, the certified employee
24 must:

25 (1) Hold a current Arkansas teaching license;

26 (2) Be over sixty-five (65) years of age; and

27 (3)(A) Have worked in an educational setting while maintaining
28 an Arkansas teaching license; or

29 (B) Have made significant contributions to education,
30 educational research, or the profession of teaching through scholarly
31 endeavors, teaching experience, excellence in teaching, or educational
32 innovation.

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34 6-17-2604. Lifetime teaching license.

35 (a) Beginning July 1, 2008, a person who meets the eligibility
36 requirements of § 6-17-2603 and who wishes to obtain a lifetime teaching

1 license shall apply for the lifetime teaching license within twelve (12)
 2 calendar months after his or her sixty-fifth birthday.

3 (b)(1) The State Board of Education shall review the application.

4 (2) If the state board approves the application, it shall
 5 continue the applicant's current license as a lifetime teaching license.

6 (3) Lifetime teaching license applicants are subject to a
 7 criminal background check upon application.

8 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the lifetime
 9 teaching license shall be reissued every five (5) years.

10 (d) A lifetime teaching license is subject to the same laws for
 11 revocation as any Arkansas teaching license.

12 (e) A person who holds a lifetime teaching license is not required to
 13 renew their teaching license.

14 (f)(1) A lifetime teaching license holder is not subject to the
 15 requirements for annual professional development requirements.

16 (2) An eligible person who retired prior to the effective date
 17 of this subchapter is not subject to future professional development
 18 requirements.

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 20 6-17-2605. Employment by a public school district.

21 (a) A lifetime teaching license holder is eligible to serve as a
 22 substitute teachers and as a tutor.

23 (b) A lifetime teaching license holder who becomes employed by a
 24 school district shall participate in the professional development programs
 25 required by the employing school district.

26 (c) A lifetime teaching license holder who has not taught in an
 27 educational setting for one (1) or more years shall be required to provide to
 28 the Department of Education verification of twenty (20) hours of professional
 29 development prior to reentering the educational setting.

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 31 6-17-2606. Rules – Reports.

32 The Arkansas Department of Education shall:

33 (1) Develop rules to implement the provisions of this
 34 subchapter; and

35 (2) Report annually to the General Assembly regarding compliance
 36 with each item set forth in this subchapter.

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-401(a), concerning the requirement for a teacher’s license, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as permitted under § 6-17-309 and § 6-17-2601 et seq., no teacher shall be employed in any public school of the state who is not licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas by a license issued by the State Board of Education.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402, concerning rules for teacher certification, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

(g)(1)(A) The state board shall waive the requirement for professional development for a retired teacher who:

(i) Maintains a valid license; and

(ii) Reenters the educational setting prior to sixty-five (65) years of age due to a teacher shortage.

(B) “Educational setting” means the employment setting where the certified employee works, including without limitation:

(i) A public or private school;

(ii) An institution of higher education;

(iii) An education service cooperative;

(iv) The Department of Education;

(v) An adult education setting; or

(vi) Another agency or organization that employs licensed teachers for educational purposes.

(2) A retired teacher who receives a waiver under subdivision (g)(1) of this section shall participate in the staff development programs required by the school district where he or she is employed.