

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
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2682

5 By: Representatives Hoyt, Hawkins, Breedlove
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
10 PRESCRIBE UNIFORM COLLEGE LEVEL PREPARATORY AND
11 GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PERSONS
12 APPLYING FOR INITIAL TEACHER LICENSURE OR
13 RELICENSURE AFTER JULY 1, 2008; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF
17 EDUCATION TO PRESCRIBE UNIFORM COLLEGE
18 LEVEL PREPARATORY AND GRADE POINT
19 AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.
20
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22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402 is amended to read as follows:

26 6-17-402. Rules ~~and regulations~~.

27 (a) For purposes of this section:

28 (1) "Certified teaching license" includes that license of a
29 licensed classroom teacher, administrator, counselor, or librarian; and

30 (2) "Levels of licensure" means the grade levels listed on a
31 teaching license of persons who are required to teach students in those grade
32 levels.

33 ~~(a)(1)(b)(1)~~ The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules ~~and~~
34 ~~regulations~~ for the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of
35 licensure of teachers in the public schools of this state.

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe uniform college



1 level preparatory and grade point average requirements for all teachers
 2 applying for initial licensure or relicensure after July 1, 2008, including
 3 uniform and specific requirements for:

4 (A) Course of study;

5 (B) College level teacher education classes;

6 (C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or
 7 licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade level certification;
 8 and

9 (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
 10 hours.

11 ~~(2)~~(3)(A) In addition to the requirements under subdivision
 12 (b)(2) of this section and other requirements, any person applying for
 13 initial licensure as a teacher in the public schools or a licensed teacher
 14 applying for a license in an additional area shall take and complete a test
 15 recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and
 16 approved by the state board under § 6-17-601 et seq., and submit the scores
 17 to the Department of Education.

18 ~~(b)~~(B) No applicant for initial licensure or licensure in
 19 an additional area shall receive a license unless the applicant scores at or
 20 above the minimum level set by the state board obtains the minimum grade
 21 point average set by the state board for any college level course work
 22 requirements established by the state board.

23 ~~(e)~~(C) All colleges and universities in this state shall
 24 report the results of the examinations to the department upon request.

25 ~~(d)~~(c)(1) The state board shall not delegate to any college or
 26 university any of the state board's powers or duties pertaining to the
 27 issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of licensure of teachers in
 28 public schools in this state.

29 (2) The state board shall not delegate to any college or
 30 university any of the state board's powers or duties pertaining to the
 31 uniform and specific requirements for:

32 (A) Course of study;

33 (B) College level teacher education classes;

34 (C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or
 35 licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade-level certification;
 36 and

1 (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
2 hours.

3 ~~(e)(d)(1)(A)~~ The state board shall waive the examination requirements
4 and the uniform college level preparatory and grade point average
5 requirements under subsection (a) of this section for individuals applying
6 for licensure in Arkansas who have a valid out-of-state teaching and
7 administrative license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as
8 required by the rules ~~and regulations~~ promulgated by the state board.

9 (B) No additional reciprocity requirements that conflict
10 with this subdivision (d)(1) shall be established by rules promulgated by the
11 state board after the effective date of this act.

12 (C) Except for existing state board rules in effect as of
13 July 1, 2007, this subdivision shall be the only requirement for licensure
14 reciprocity.

15 (2) The state board shall waive the uniform college level
16 preparatory and grade point average requirement under subsection (a) of this
17 section for a student enrolled as a junior or senior in a teacher education
18 program before July 1, 2008.

19 ~~(f) For purposes of this section, "certified teaching license"~~
20 ~~includes that license of a licensed classroom teacher, administrator,~~
21 ~~counselor, or librarian.~~

22 (e)(1) By July 1, 2008, the levels of licensure for Arkansas shall be
23 for:

24 (A) Grades prekindergarten through six (PreK-6);

25 (B) Grades seven through twelve (7-12);

26 (C) Grades four through eight (4-8); and

27 (D) Specialty content areas prekindergarten through twelve
28 (PreK-12).

29 (2)(A) Institutions of higher education that have approved
30 programs of study for grades prekindergarten through four (preK-4) in place
31 shall be approved by the Department of Higher Education to offer a grades
32 prekindergarten through six (preK-6) licensure program by adding appropriate
33 middle-level course work as currently outlined by the Department of Education
34 for an endorsement in grades five through six (5-6).

35 (B) Institutions of higher education currently offering
36 prekindergarten through grade four (preK-4) early childhood licensure

1 programs approved by the Department of Education shall not be required to
 2 resubmit these programs for approval when the licensure levels change from
 3 prekindergarten through grade four (preK-4) to prekindergarten through grade
 4 six (preK-6).

5 (f) The uniform college level preparatory and grade point average
 6 requirements prescribed by the state board as provided under subdivision
 7 (a)(2) of this section shall not be required for any teacher who has been
 8 issued a teacher certification or licensure before July 1, 2008.

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

11 (i) Maintains a valid license; and

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

14 (B) "Educational setting" means the employment setting
 15 where the certified employee works, including without limitation:

16 (i) A public or private school;

17 (ii) An institution of higher education;

18 (iii) An education service cooperative;

19 (iv) The Department of Education;

20 (v) An adult education setting; or

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

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

26
 27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 4 is amended
 28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-17-422. Professional Licensure Standards Board -- Creation --
 30 Membership.

31 (a) The "Professional Licensure Standards Board" is created.

32 (b) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall consist of
 33 fifteen (15) members as follows:

34 (1) Twelve (12) members appointed by the State Board of
 35 Education as follows:

36 (A) Three (3) public school teachers with an Arkansas

1 teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than six (6) different
2 teachers with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas
3 Education Association;

4 (B) One (1) person with an Arkansas teaching license
5 selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different people with an
6 Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas Association of Middle
7 Level Education;

8 (C) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas
9 teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different
10 administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas
11 Association of School Administrators;

12 (D) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas
13 teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different
14 administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas
15 Association of School Personnel Administrators;

16 (E) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas
17 teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different
18 administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas
19 Association of Secondary Principals;

20 (F) One (1) public school administrator with an Arkansas
21 teaching license selected from a list of no fewer than three (3) different
22 administrators with an Arkansas teaching license submitted by the Arkansas
23 Association of Elementary School Principals;

24 (G) Two (2) deans of a public institution of higher
25 education school of education, college of education, or department of a
26 education from a list of no fewer than five (5) different administrators
27 submitted by the Executive Council of the Arkansas Higher Education
28 Coordinating Board; and

29 (H) Two (2) representatives of an independent higher
30 education institution from a list of no fewer than five (5) different
31 representatives submitted by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher
32 Education;

33 (2) The Coordinator for the Office of Professional Quality
34 Enhancement of the Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio
35 capacity;

36 (3) The Coordinator for the Office of Professional Licensure of

1 the Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity; and

2 (4) The Non-traditional Licensure Program Advisor of the
3 Department of Education in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity.

4 (c)(1) Any list to be submitted under subsection (b) of this section
5 shall be submitted to the secretary of the State Board of Education by June
6 30, 2007.

7 (2) If a list for the respective position is not submitted by
8 the deadline, the State Board of Education may appoint any qualified person
9 to fill the position.

10 (d)(1) The appointed Professional Licensure Standards Board members
11 shall be residents of the State of Arkansas at the time of appointment and
12 throughout their terms.

13 (2) The Commisioner of Education shall call an organizational
14 meeting within twenty (20) calendar days after the State Board of Education
15 has made all necessary appointments.

16 (3) The commisioner shall serve as chair at the organizational
17 meeting until the Professional Licensure Standards Board elects a chair from
18 among its members during the first organizational meeting.

19 (e)(1) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall meet at times
20 and places the chair deems necessary, but no meetings shall be held outside
21 of the State of Arkansas.

22 (2) A majority of the members of the Professional Licensure
23 Standards Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

24 (3) All action of the Professional Licensure Standards Board
25 shall be by a majority vote of the full membership of the Professional
26 Licensure Standards Board.

27 (f) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

28 (1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of
29 Education uniform college level preparatory and grade point average
30 requirements for all teachers applying for initial licensure or relicensure
31 after July 1, 2008, that shall include uniform and specific requirements for:

32 (A) Course of study;

33 (B) College level teacher education classes;

34 (C) Subject-matter specific course work certification or
35 licensure in a particular subject area rather than grade-level certification;
36 and

