

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: S3/15/07

A Bill

SENATE BILL 843

5 By: Senator Broadway
6 By: Representative Kenney
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS TRAVELING
11 TEACHER PROGRAM TO ASSIST RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
12 IN PROVIDING APPROPRIATELY CERTIFIED LICENSED
13 TEACHERS TO TEACH REQUIRED COURSES IN GRADES NINE
14 THROUGH TWELVE (9-12); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS
17 TRAVELING TEACHER PROGRAM.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 13, Subchapter 8 is amended*
24 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

25 *6-13-808. The Arkansas Traveling Teacher Program.*

26 *(a) The Arkansas Traveling Teacher Program is hereby established and*
27 *shall be administered by the Department of Education with the assistance of*
28 *public school districts and education service cooperatives.*

29 *(b)(1) Pursuant to the provisions of this section, and to the extent*
30 *sufficient funding is available, the following persons and public school*
31 *districts may enter into an agreement to provide traveling teacher services*
32 *for one (1) or more receiving school districts for one (1) or more courses*
33 *required by the Arkansas standards for accreditation and any advanced*
34 *placement courses required by § 6-16-1204:*

35 *(A) A traveling teacher who is appropriately licensed in*
36 *Arkansas as a teacher and employed on a full-time equivalent basis by a host*



1 school district;

2 (B) A host school district that is an Arkansas public
3 school district with a student population of eight thousand (8,000) students
4 or fewer and that desires to provide traveling teacher services to a
5 receiving school district; and

6 (C) A receiving school district that is a public school
7 district other than the host school district and that desires to receive
8 traveling teacher services.

9 (2) The parties shall enter into a written agreement, in the
10 form established by the Department of Education, that shall include without
11 limitation the following:

12 (A) The traveling teacher is to provide professional
13 teaching services to the receiving school district for one (1) or more
14 required courses;

15 (B) The amount of the bonus to be provided to the
16 traveling teacher under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section;

17 (C) For each course to be taught under the agreement:

18 (i) A description of the course;

19 (ii) The time and day for teaching each course; and

20 (iii) The exact location where the course will be
21 taught;

22 (D)(i) Whether the agreement is for a school semester or a
23 school year.

24 (ii) No agreement shall be for a time period longer
25 than a school year or shorter than a school semester;

26 (E)(i) The receiving school district will reimburse the
27 host school district for the time the traveling teacher is not working in the
28 host school district.

29 (ii) The reimbursement shall be the receiving school
30 district's pro rata share of the traveling teacher's time based on the hourly
31 rate of the traveling teacher's contract with the host school district;

32 (F) At all times during the period of the agreement, the
33 traveling teacher is an employee of the host school district and is subject
34 to the personnel policies and contractual obligations of the host school
35 district; and

36 (G)(i) That sufficient time will be allowed for the

1 traveling teacher to travel to and from the host school district and the
2 receiving school district.

3 (ii) The Department of Education shall not approve
4 an agreement under this section unless the agreement requires the traveling
5 teacher to be physically present in the receiving school district while the
6 traveling teacher is teaching any course specified in the agreement; and

7 (3) The agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the
8 Department of Education under subsection (f) of this section.

9 (c) To the extent the agreement is approved by the Department of
10 Education:

11 (1)(A) Upon completion of the traveling teacher services
12 provided under the agreement and under the terms of the agreement, the host
13 school district shall pay the traveling teacher, in addition to the amount
14 required by the teacher's annual teacher's contract with the host school
15 district a bonus of either:

16 (i) Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a semester
17 agreement; or

18 (ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a full
19 school year agreement.

20 (B) The Department of Education shall reimburse the host
21 school district for the amount of bonus paid to the traveling teacher; and

22 (2)(A) The host school district shall reimburse the traveling
23 teacher for expenses related to travel to and from a receiving school
24 district at the appropriate state rate of reimbursement in existence and
25 approved by the Department of Finance and Administration for the school year
26 in which the traveling teacher's services are provided.

27 (B) The Department of Education shall reimburse the host
28 school district for the amount of travel reimbursement paid by the host
29 school district to the traveling teacher.

30 (d) Neither the Department of Education nor the State of Arkansas
31 shall be obligated or liable to reimburse any bonus or travel expenses
32 incurred under an agreement for traveling teacher services under this section
33 if the Department of Education has not reviewed and approved the entire
34 agreement.

35 (e) The Department of Education may, if feasible and if funding is
36 available, establish an online registry of public school teachers willing to

1 enter into an agreement for traveling teacher services under this section
2 with information concerning the teacher's employing school district and any
3 course the teacher is qualified to teach.

4 (f)(1) All proposed agreements among a host school district, a
5 receiving school district, and a traveling teacher shall be submitted to the
6 Department of Education by a date certain for review and approval by the
7 Department of Education.

8 (2) The Department of Education shall review each agreement with
9 all requisite authority to approve or deny the agreement based on the
10 provisions of law, rule, availability of funding, and discretionary
11 determination as to the best use of state resources and funding.

12 (3) The Department of Education shall endeavor to consider
13 approval of an agreement to:

14 (A) Place a traveling teacher with a receiving school
15 district to maximize the efficiency of the traveling teacher's service to
16 both the host and receiving school districts; and

17 (B) Minimize the extent and duration of any travel
18 required.

19 (g)(1) The Department of Education shall establish any rules and
20 agreement forms necessary for the administration of the Arkansas Traveling
21 Teacher Program.

22 (2) In establishing the rules, the Department of Education
23 shall:

24 (A) Prioritize the approval of agreements for traveling
25 teacher services based on subject-area course needs;

26 (B) Establish appropriate travel limitations;

27 (C) Develop a method of equitable distribution of
28 traveling teachers among the area's education service cooperatives; and

29 (D) Provide a means by which education service
30 cooperatives may assist in facilitating traveling teachers.

31 (h) No provision of this section is intended or should be interpreted
32 to waive any immunity or defense of the State of Arkansas or its various
33 agencies, boards or commissions and no person shall be deemed to have any
34 legal entitlement, recourse or cause of action against the State of Arkansas
35 or its various agencies, boards or commissions based on the terms,
36 conditions, or provisions of this section.

