

State of Arkansas
87th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1999

By: Representative Lea

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING TEACHER
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-702(a)(1)(B), concerning staff
development sessions, is amended to read as follows:

(B) Certified personnel may count up to two (2) days of
~~five and one half (5 1/2)~~ six (6) hours each of attendance at instructional
professional development sessions conducted by bona fide professional
organizations toward fulfillment of the ~~five (5)~~ ten (10) days of staff
development required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public
Schools and School Districts, provided the sessions have been certified by
the Department of Education.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-705 is amended to read as follows:
6-17-705. Professional development credit.

(a) Up to twelve (12) hours of professional development credit may be
earned by certified personnel for time required at the beginning of each
school year to plan and prepare a curriculum and other instructional material
for their assigned classes if the time is:

(1) Spent in their classrooms, offices, or media centers at the



1 public school; and

2 (2) ~~Prior to~~ Before the first student-teacher interaction day of
3 the school year, but ~~no~~ a school district shall not require certified
4 personnel to work additional days that are not included in their contracts
5 unless the certified personnel are paid their daily rate of pay.

6 (b) Certified personnel shall earn one (1) hour of professional
7 development credit for each hour of planning and preparation that meets the
8 requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

9 (c) Certified personnel may earn up to eighteen (18) hours of online
10 professional development credit as approved by the Department of Education.

11 (d)(1) If catastrophic illness of a teacher or a teacher's immediate
12 family under § 6-17-1202 prevents a teacher from obtaining the required
13 professional development hours, the teacher shall be allowed to make up the
14 hours missed during the:

15 (A) Remainder of the current school year; or

16 (B) Succeeding school year.

17 (2) The teacher may earn the professional development hours
18 through online professional development.

19 ~~(e)~~(e) The State Board of Education shall promulgate the rules
20 necessary for the proper implementation of this section.