

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 394

5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, Madison  
6 By: Representatives M. Burris, M. Martin, Cheatham  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ALLOW PERSONS WITH A BIRTH-THROUGH-  
11 KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE TO TEACH IN  
12 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATION SERVICE  
13 COOPERATIVE PREKINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN  
14 PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
15 STANDARDS BOARD TO DEVELOP REQUIREMENTS FOR A  
16 BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE; TO  
17 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE  
18 RULES FOR A BIRTH-THROUGH-KINDERGARTEN TEACHING  
19 LICENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

21 TO ALLOW PERSONS WITH A BIRTH-THROUGH-  
22 KINDERGARTEN TEACHING LICENSE TO TEACH  
23 IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL OR EDUCATION  
24 SERVICE COOPERATIVE PREKINDERGARTEN AND  
25 KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.  
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28  
29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General  
32 Assembly that the Department of Education, Professional Licensure Standards  
33 Board, Department of Higher Education, and institutions of higher education  
34 in this state work together to provide the education and new licensure  
35 structure to prepare persons completing a four-year postsecondary degree in  
36 early childhood education to:



- 1           (1) Obtain a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license; and
- 2           (2) Prepare the applicant with specialized knowledge and skills
- 3 to teach young children from birth through kindergarten, including special
- 4 needs children.

5

6           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-401(b), concerning teacher licensing

7 requirements, is amended to read as follows:

8           (b) ~~Any person who shall teach~~ A person who teaches in a public school

9 in this state ~~shall only be entitled to~~ may only receive ~~any~~ compensation

10 from the school funds for ~~such~~ his or her teaching services if the person

11 has:

- 12           (1) A valid license issued by the state board; ~~or~~
- 13           (2) If the person teaches children enrolled in prekindergarten
- 14 and kindergarten programs at an Arkansas public school or education service
- 15 cooperative, a valid license issued by the state board that may be a birth-
- 16 through-kindergarten teaching license that is separate from the standard
- 17 teaching license; or
- 18           (3) Other documentation from the Office of Professional
- 19 Licensure of the Department of Education authorizing employment as a teacher
- 20 under the conditions set forth by the Department of Education in the
- 21 documentation.

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23           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(1), concerning the duties of

24 the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as follows:

- 25           (h) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:
- 26           (1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of
  - 27 Education minimum college level preparatory and grade point average
  - 28 requirements for all teachers applying for ~~initial licensure~~ an initial
  - 29 Arkansas teaching license, a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license, or
  - 30 additional licensure after July 1, 2007, that shall include minimum
  - 31 requirements for:
    - 32           (A) Course of study;
    - 33           (B) Program approval;
    - 34           (C) Range of approved hours; and
    - 35           (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
    - 36 hours;

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SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. By January 1, 2010, the Professional Licensure Standards Board shall make its recommendations to the State Board of Education for standards and requirements for the birth-through-kindergarten teaching license. By April 1, 2010, the State Board of Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act for the birth-through-kindergarten teaching license.