

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

As Engrossed: S2/23/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 394

5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, Madison
6 By: Representatives *M. Martin, M. Burris*, Cheatham
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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.
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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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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, child development, early childhood special



1 education, or a related degree meeting birth-through-kindergarten teaching
 2 licensure requirements to:

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

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 8 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-401(b), concerning teacher licensing
 9 requirements, is amended to read as follows:

10 (b) ~~Any person who shall teach~~ A person who teaches in a public school
 11 in this state ~~shall only be entitled to~~ may only receive ~~any~~ compensation
 12 from the school funds for ~~such~~ his or her teaching services if the person
 13 has:

- 14 (1) A valid license issued by the state board; ~~or~~
 15 (2) If the person teaches children enrolled in prekindergarten
 16 and kindergarten programs at an Arkansas public school, an education service
 17 cooperative, or an early childhood program accredited and funded under the
 18 Arkansas Better Chance Program, § 6-45-101 et seq., a valid license issued by
 19 the state board that may be a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license
 20 that is separate from the standard teaching license; or

21 (3) Other documentation from the Office of Professional
 22 Licensure of the Department of Education authorizing employment as a teacher
 23 under the conditions set forth by the Department of Education in the
 24 documentation.

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 26 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(1), concerning the duties of
 27 the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as follows:

28 (h) The Professional Licensure Standards Board shall:

29 (1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of
 30 Education minimum college level preparatory and grade point average
 31 requirements for all teachers applying for ~~initial licensure~~ an initial
 32 Arkansas teaching license, a birth-through-kindergarten teaching license, or
 33 additional licensure after July 1, 2007, that shall include minimum
 34 requirements for:

- 35 (A) Course of study;
 36 (B) Program approval;

- 1 (C) Range of approved hours; and
- 2 (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching
- 3 hours;

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5 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. By January 1, 2010, the Professional

6 Licensure Standards Board shall make its recommendations to the State Board

7 of Education for standards and requirements for the birth-through-

8 kindergarten teaching license. By April 1, 2010, the State Board of

9 Education shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act for

10 the birth-through-kindergarten teaching license.

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12 */s/ J. Jeffress*

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