

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1893

5 By: Representative Hobbs  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER LICENSURE AND  
9 RECIPROCITY LAWS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

### Subtitle

11 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER LICENSURE  
12 AND RECIPROCITY LAWS.  
13

14  
15  
16  
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
18

19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403 is amended to read as follows:

20 6-17-403. Provisional ~~certification~~ licensure for teachers trained and  
21 ~~certified~~ licensed in other states.

22 (a) The State Board of Education ~~is authorized to~~ may issue a one-year  
23 nonrenewable provisional ~~certificate~~ license to any teacher who seeks  
24 Arkansas ~~certification~~ licensure and is trained in and ~~certified~~ licensed by  
25 a state other than Arkansas.

26 (b)(1) Any person who has not successfully completed the National  
27 Teacher's Examination or a similar examination designated by the state board  
28 under § 6-17-601 et seq. and who has not previously held an Arkansas  
29 ~~certificate~~ license but meets degree, course work, and experience  
30 requirements for a standard ~~certificate~~ license and who otherwise qualifies  
31 to teach in the public schools of this state may receive a one-year  
32 nonrenewable provisional ~~certificate~~ license and be employed by any public  
33 school district in this state for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

34 (2) ~~Any~~ A school district that hires a teacher who has not  
35 successfully completed the examination shall not be penalized by the state  
36 board provided that the length of employment of the teacher while



1 ~~noncertified~~ nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

2 (c)(1) The state board shall issue a standard teaching license to an  
 3 individual who furnishes the Department of Education proof of the following:

4 (A) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas  
 5 equivalent from another state;

6 (B) Successful completion of the criminal background  
 7 checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;

8 (C) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of  
 9 at least a baccalaureate degree;

10 (D) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing  
 11 by the licensing state; and

12 (E) Completion of a program for:

13 (i) Teacher education at a regionally accredited  
 14 institution of higher education;

15 (ii) Teacher education accredited by the National  
 16 Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education; or

17 (iii) Certification from the National Board of  
 18 Professional Teaching Standards.

19 (2) The state board shall issue a standard teaching license to  
 20 an applicant under this subsection (c) who holds a standard teaching license  
 21 or its Arkansas equivalent from a state that has a reciprocity agreement with  
 22 Arkansas.

23 (3) Requirements for obtaining an Arkansas teaching license in  
 24 addition to those identified in this subsection (c) shall not be imposed on  
 25 an applicant who holds a valid standard teaching license or its Arkansas  
 26 equivalent from another state by:

27 (A) The state board;

28 (B) The department; or

29 (C) An Arkansas college or university.

31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409 is amended to read as follows:

32 6-17-409. Nontraditional licensure ~~certification~~.

33 (a) The ~~Department~~ State Board of Education may offer and operate a  
 34 nontraditional licensure program.

35 (b)(1) The ~~department is hereby authorized to~~ Department of Education  
 36 may provide grants of financial assistance to entities that train individuals

1 seeking to obtain nontraditional licensure ~~certification~~ through the  
2 nontraditional ~~certification~~ licensure process administered by the  
3 department.

4 (2) The department shall pay the grants from funds appropriated  
5 by the General Assembly to the department for such purpose.

6 (c) ~~The department is hereby authorized to~~ state board shall  
7 promulgate rules and regulations to determine eligibility for and amount of  
8 awards of the grants concerning the operation of the nontraditional licensure  
9 program authorized by this section and for such other purposes as may be  
10 necessary in carrying out the intent of this section.

11 (d) If the ~~department~~ state board requires an applicant for  
12 nontraditional licensure ~~certification~~ to complete one (1) or more additional  
13 college-level courses and the applicant has obtained a bachelor's degree, the  
14 required course or courses shall meet one (1) or more of the following  
15 conditions:

16 (1)(A) Each course shall be offered at every state-supported,  
17 two-year institution of higher education.

18 (B) If more than one (1) course is required, all courses  
19 shall be offered in a one-semester block; or

20 (2) Each course shall be available as an online course, a  
21 traditional face-to-face course, or a hybrid course that is part online  
22 instruction and part face-to-face instruction, as approved by the department.

23 (e)(1) The state board shall deem that an applicant has met the  
24 academic and experience eligibility requirements of the state board's  
25 nontraditional licensure program if the applicant has:

26 (A) Successfully completed the two-year Teach for America  
27 program; or

28 (B) Been awarded a master's degree from an accredited  
29 teaching program at an institution of higher education.

30 (2) The state board may still require an applicant who meets the  
31 criteria of subdivision (e)(1) of this section to submit proof of the  
32 following academic eligibility:

33 (A) A passing score, as set by the state board, on a  
34 state-required pedagogical or content-area assessment; and

35 (B)(i) Successful completion of courses in the Methods of  
36 Teaching Reading, Arkansas History, or both, if required by the grade level

1 and content area for which the applicant seeks licensure.

2 (ii) An applicant who has successfully completed the  
3 two-year Teach for America program is exempt from the Methods of Teaching  
4 Reading requirement;

5 (3) No academic or experience requirements for obtaining an  
6 Arkansas teaching license in addition to those identified in this subsection  
7 (e) shall be imposed on an applicant who otherwise meets the requirements of  
8 this subsection (e) by:

9 (A) The state board;

10 (B) The department; or

11 (C) An Arkansas college or university.

12 (f)(1) The state board may issue a three-year provisional  
13 nontraditional license to an applicant who submits to the department the  
14 following:

15 (A) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of  
16 at least a baccalaureate degree;

17 (B) Evidence of a minimum of three (3) years of employment  
18 experience in the content area of the class the applicant seeks to teach;

19 (C) Evidence of an offer of employment to teach classes  
20 for credit in an Arkansas public school;

21 (D)(i) The relevance of the applicant's credentials to  
22 teach the subject the applicant seeks to teach.

23 (ii) This subdivision (f)(1)(D) may be documented by  
24 a letter from the applicant;

25 (E) Two (2) professional letters of recommendation  
26 submitted by the applicant's references;

27 (F) A passing score on the appropriate Praxis II Content  
28 Knowledge test for the course the applicant seeks to teach; and

29 (G) Successful completion of the criminal background  
30 checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410.

31 (2)(A) An individual who receives a three-year provisional  
32 teaching license under this subsection (f) shall successfully complete forty  
33 (40) hours of pedagogy training to be taken within the first year of  
34 teaching.

35 (B) The forty-hour pedagogy training shall consist of  
36 intensive training for between three (3) and six (6) months and shall count

1 toward the licensee's professional development requirement.

2 (3)(A) The licensee shall undergo a summative evaluation at the  
3 end of the three (3) years of provisional licensure.

4 (B) The summative evaluation determination shall be at  
5 least fifty percent (50%) based on student performance.

6 (C)(i) The licensee's summative evaluation shall not  
7 indicate that the licensee did not receive a rating of "Unsatisfactory" in  
8 any one (1) evaluation category.

9 (ii) A licensee who receives a rating of  
10 "Unsatisfactory" in any one (1) evaluation may be required to complete  
11 additional hours of pedagogy training.

12 (4) The state board shall issue a standard teaching license to  
13 the licensee if the licensee otherwise successfully completes the three (3)  
14 years of provisional licensure under this subsection (f).

15  
16 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-424 is amended to read as follows:

17 6-17-424. ~~Administrator licensure~~ Licensure for public school guidance  
18 counselors - Eligibility.

19 (a) Except as provided under subsection (b) of this section, a person  
20 who is employed as a public school guidance counselor and does not teach in a  
21 classroom is not required to hold a teaching license issued by the State  
22 Board of Education.

23 (b) A public school guidance counselor is an eligible candidate for an  
24 initial administrator license if the public school guidance counselor:

25 (1) Holds a current standard teaching license;

26 (2) Has a minimum of four (4) years' experience as a public  
27 school guidance counselor;

28 (3) Holds a graduate degree from a regionally accredited  
29 institution of higher education; and

30 (4) Completes the appropriate program of study for an initial  
31 administrator license.

32 ~~(b)(c)~~ The ~~Department of Education~~ state board shall promulgate the  
33 rules necessary to implement this section.

34  
35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402, concerning definitions under the  
36 Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is amended to add an additional

1 subdivision to read as follows:

2 (3) "Master's degree" means a graduate degree awarded for  
3 successful completion of a program at the master's level or higher related  
4 to:

- 5 (A) Education;
- 6 (B) Guidance counseling; or
- 7 (C) A teacher's teaching content area.

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36