

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

As Engrossed: H3/18/11

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1893

5 By: Representative Hobbs
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

11 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER LICENSURE
12 AND RECIPROCITY LAWS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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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.

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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).

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16 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402, concerning definitions under the
17 Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is amended to add an additional
18 subdivision to read as follows:

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

22 (A) Education;

23 (B) Guidance counseling; or

24 (C) A teacher's teaching content area.

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26 /s/Hobbs
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