

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

As Engrossed: H3/18/11 S3/23/11

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1893

5 By: Representative Hobbs
6 By: Senator Holland
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER LICENSURE AND
10 RECIPROCITY LAWS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER LICENSURE
15 AND RECIPROCITY LAWS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

35 (2) ~~Any~~ A school district that hires a teacher who has not
36 successfully completed the examination shall not be penalized by the state



1 board provided that the length of employment of the teacher while
 2 ~~noncertified~~ nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

3 (c) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license
 4 to an individual who furnishes the Department of Education proof of the
 5 following:

6 (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas
 7 equivalent that:

8 (A) Was issued in another state; and

9 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent two

10 (2) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

11 (2) Successful completion of the criminal records checks and
 12 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;

13 (3) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at
 14 least a baccalaureate degree;

15 (4) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the
 16 licensing state;

17 (5) Completion of a program for:

18 (A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited
 19 institution of higher education;

20 (B) Teacher education accredited by the National Council
 21 for Accreditation of Teacher Education; or

22 (C) Certification from the National Board of Professional
 23 Teaching Standards; and

24 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

25
 26 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409 is amended to read as follows:

27 6-17-409. Nontraditional licensure ~~certification~~.

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

30 (b)(1) The ~~department is hereby authorized to~~ Department of Education
 31 may provide grants of financial assistance to entities that train individuals
 32 seeking to obtain nontraditional licensure ~~certification~~ through the
 33 nontraditional ~~certification~~ licensure process administered by the
 34 department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (e)(1) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching
19 license to an applicant if the applicant has:

20 (A) Either:

21 (i) Successfully completed the two-year Teach for
22 America program; or

23 (ii) Been awarded a master's degree in teaching from
24 an accredited program at an institution of higher education; and

25 (B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and
26 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410.

27 (2) The state board shall issue to an applicant who is in the
28 Teach for America program a provisional teaching license valid for the
29 entire two-year period that the applicant is:

30 (A) In the Teach for America program; and

31 (B) Teaching in an Arkansas public school.

32 (3) The state board may require an applicant who meets the
33 criteria of subdivision (e)(1) of this section to submit proof of the
34 following academic eligibility:

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

1 (B)(i) If required by the grade level and content area for
2 which the applicant seeks licensure, successful completion of courses in
3 Arkansas History or Methods of Teaching Reading, or both.

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

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

11 (A) The state board;

12 (B) The department; or

13 (C) An Arkansas state-funded college or university.

14 (f)(1) The state board shall issue a three-year provisional
15 professional teaching license to an applicant who submits to the department
16 the following:

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

19 (B) Evidence of a minimum of three (3) years of employment
20 experience in the content area that the applicant seeks to teach;

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

23 (D) A statement of justification from the applicant
24 relating the applicant's experience to teaching in the content area in which
25 the applicant seeks to teach;

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

28 (F) A passing score on the content knowledge and
29 pedagogical tests for the content area in which the applicant seeks to teach;
30 and

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

33 (2)(A)(i) An individual who receives a three-year provisional
34 teaching license under this subsection shall pass the Praxis II Pedagogy
35 Assessment or have thirty (30) hours of training in pedagogy.

36 (ii) The thirty (30) hours of training in pedagogy

1 are in addition to and not considered a part of the sixty (60) hours of
2 professional development required for teachers by their employing school
3 district or public school.

4 (3) At the end of three (3) years of provisional licensure, the
5 licensee shall undergo a summative evaluation as required by Arkansas law.

6 (4)(A) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching
7 license to the licensee if the licensee successfully completes a performance-
8 based assessment that includes student achievement.

9 (B) The performance-based assessment shall be:

10 (i) Approved by the state board;

11 (ii) Paid for by the state; and

12 (iii) Administered no earlier than the completion of
13 the first academic school year of teaching and before the expiration of the
14 three-year provisional license.

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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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