

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1590

5 By: Representative Westerman  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON APPLYING FOR AN  
9 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE OR AN  
10 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING LICENSE  
11 TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS FOUNDATIONS OF READING TEST AND  
12 THE GENERAL CURRICULUM TEST OF THE MASSACHUSETTS  
13 TESTS FOR EDUCATIONAL LICENSURE AS A CONDITION OF  
14 LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS TO BE  
19 SUCCESSFULLY PASSED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN  
20 ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE  
21 OR ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION  
22 TEACHING LICENSE.  
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24  
25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(b)-(d), concerning teacher  
28 licensure, is amended to read as follows:

29 (b)(1) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
30 regulations for the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of  
31 licensure of teachers in the public schools of this state.

32 (2)(A) In addition to other requirements, ~~any:~~

33 (i) A person applying for initial licensure as a  
34 teacher or administrator in the public schools or a licensed teacher or  
35 administrator applying for a license in an additional area shall take and  
36 complete a test recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of



1 Teacher Education and approved by the State Board of Education and submit the  
2 scores to the Department of Education-; and

3 (ii) A person applying for initial licensure as an  
4 elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special  
5 education teacher shall take and complete the Foundations of Reading test and  
6 the General Curriculum test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educational  
7 Licensure, including the Mathematics subtest, and submit the scores to the  
8 department.

9 (B)(i) ~~No~~ An applicant for initial licensure or licensure  
10 in an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless  
11 the applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of  
12 Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional  
13 Licensure Standards Board.

14 (ii) For tests administered under subdivision  
15 (b)(2)(A)(ii), the cut scores shall be set by the State Board of Education,  
16 with strong consideration given to the cut scores used in Massachusetts.

17 (C) All colleges and universities in this state shall  
18 report the results of the examinations to the department upon request.

19 (c) The State Board of Education shall not delegate to ~~any~~ a college  
20 or university any of the State Board of Education's powers or duties  
21 pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of  
22 licensure of teachers in public schools in this state.

23 ~~(d) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination~~  
24 ~~requirements under subsection (b) of this section for individuals applying~~  
25 ~~for licensure in Arkansas who have a valid out-of-state teaching license and~~  
26 ~~three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by the rules~~  
27 ~~promulgated by the State Board of Education.~~

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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403 is amended to read as follows:

30 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in  
31 other states.

32 (a) The State Board of Education may issue a one-year nonrenewable  
33 provisional license to any teacher who seeks Arkansas licensure and is  
34 trained in and licensed by a state other than Arkansas if the teacher has  
35 been in good standing during the most recent three (3) years of teaching in  
36 another state.

1 (b)(1) ~~Any~~ A person who has not successfully completed the licensure  
 2 ~~examination tests~~ designated by the state board under ~~§ 6-17-601 et seq.~~ 6-  
 3 17-402 and who has not previously held an Arkansas license but meets degree,  
 4 course work, and experience requirements for a standard license and who  
 5 otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this state may receive  
 6 a one-year nonrenewable provisional license and be employed by any public  
 7 school district in this state for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

8 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not  
 9 successfully completed the examination shall not be penalized by the state  
 10 board ~~provided that~~ if the length of employment of the teacher while  
 11 nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

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

15 (1) A valid standard teaching license or its Arkansas equivalent  
 16 that:

17 (A) Was issued in another state; and

18 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent ~~two~~  
 19 ~~(2)~~ three (3) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

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

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

24 ~~Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~  
 25 ~~licensing state~~ Successful completion of tests required under § 6-17-402;

26 (5) Completion of a program for:

27 (A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited  
 28 institution of higher education;

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

31 (C) Certification from the National Board ~~of~~ for  
 32 Professional Teaching Standards; and

33 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

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 35 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(1), concerning nontraditional  
 36 teacher licensure, is amended to read as follows:

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

3 (A) Either:

4 (i) Successfully completed the two-year Teach ~~for~~  
 5 For America program; or

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

8 (B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and  
 9 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410-~~r~~; and

10 (C) Successfully completed the tests required under § 6-  
 11 17-402.

12  
 13 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and  
 14 confidentiality of test scores is amended to read as follows:

15 (a) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of this~~  
 16 subchapter and under § 6-17-402 shall not be disclosed but shall be retained  
 17 by the Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the  
 18 Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act  
 19 ~~which~~ that would require the disclosure thereof. However, the department  
 20 shall provide each licensed ~~personnel~~ person with that person's test score  
 21 and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of the test.