

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 21

5 By: Senator A. Clark
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 THE FOUNDATIONS OF READING TEST
12 AND THE GENERAL CURRICULUM TEST OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
13 TESTS FOR EDUCATOR 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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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 secondary level teacher or as an administrator in the public schools or a
35 licensed secondary level teacher, a licensed elementary general education
36 teacher, or an administrator applying for a license in an additional area



1 shall take and complete a test recognized by the National Council for
 2 Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the State Board of
 3 Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education; and

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

10 (b) The State Board of Education shall not
 11 require additional testing for a person applying for initial licensure as an
 12 elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special
 13 education teacher other than what is required under subdivision
 14 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section.

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

20 (ii) For tests administered under subdivision
 21 (b)(2)(A)(ii) of this section, the cut scores shall be set by the State Board
 22 of Education, with strong consideration given to the cut scores used in
 23 Massachusetts.

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

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

30 ~~(d) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination~~
 31 ~~requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an individual applying~~
 32 ~~for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-state teaching~~
 33 ~~license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by~~
 34 ~~the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.~~

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

1 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in
2 other states.

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

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

15 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
16 successfully completed the ~~examination~~ licensure tests required under § 6-17-
17 402 shall not be penalized by the state board ~~provided that~~ if the length of
18 employment of the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

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

22 (1) A valid standard teaching license or its Arkansas equivalent
23 that:

24 (A) Was issued in another state; and

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

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

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

31 (4) ~~Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~
32 ~~licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented~~
33 ~~teaching experience~~ Successful completion of the licensure tests required
34 under § 6-17-402;

35 (5) Completion of a program for:

36 (A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited

1 institution of higher education;

2 (B) Teacher education nationally accredited by an
3 accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
4 Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or the Council for
5 Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

6 (C) Certification from the National Board for Professional
7 Teaching Standards; and

8 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

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10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(1) and (2), concerning
11 nontraditional teacher licensure, are amended to read as follows:

12 (e)(1) As used in this subsection, “accelerated teaching program”
13 means a program intended for college graduates that provides intensive
14 training and support for a period of two (2) or more years for teaching and
15 leading in schools.

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

18 (A) Either:

19 (i) Successfully completed an accelerated teaching
20 program, including:

21 (a) The Teach For America, Inc., program;

22 (b) The Arkansas Teacher Corps program offered
23 by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville;

24 (c) The American Board for the Certification
25 of Teacher Excellence program; or

26 (d) Another accelerated teaching program
27 approved by the department; or

28 (ii) Been awarded a master’s degree in teaching from
29 an accredited program at an institution of higher education; and

30 (B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and
31 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410+; and

32 (C) Successfully completed the licensure tests required
33 under § 6-17-402.

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

1 (a)(1) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of~~ this
2 subchapter and § 6-17-402 shall not be disclosed but shall be retained by the
3 Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the Freedom of
4 Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act ~~which~~ that
5 would require the disclosure thereof.

6 (2) However, the department shall provide each licensee with
7 that person's test score and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of
8 the test.

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