

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1456

5 By: Representative Richey
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS LICENSED IN CONTIGUOUS
9 STATES; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
10 ISSUE A TEACHING LICENSE TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
11 LICENSED IN A CONTIGUOUS STATE; TO REQUIRE THAT THE
12 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ESTABLISH MINIMUM SCORES
13 THAT ARE LOWER THAN THE LOWEST-ACCEPTED SCORES IN
14 CONTIGUOUS STATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
19 TO ISSUE TEACHING LICENSES TO INDIVIDUALS
20 LICENSED IN CONTIGUOUS STATES; AND TO
21 REQUIRE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
22 LOWER MINIMUM SCORES.
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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 § 6-17-401 is amended to read as follows:

28 6-17-401. Teacher's license requirement.

29 (a) Except as permitted under § 6-17-309 and § 6-17-2601 et seq., ~~no a~~
30 teacher ~~shall be~~ who is employed in ~~any a~~ public school ~~of~~ in the state shall
31 be who is not licensed to teach in ~~the State of~~:

32 (1) Arkansas by a license issued by the State Board of
33 Education; or

34 (2) A contiguous state, as defined in § 6-17-430.

35 (b) ~~Any A~~ person who ~~shall teach~~ teaches in a public school in this
36 state shall ~~only~~ be entitled to receive ~~any~~ compensation from the school



1 funds ~~for such services~~ if the person has:

2 (1) A valid Arkansas license issued by the state board; ~~or~~

3 (2) Other documentation from the Office of Professional
 4 Licensure of the Department of Education authorizing employment as a teacher
 5 under the conditions ~~set forth~~ established by the Department of Education in
 6 the documentation~~;~~ or

7 (3) A valid license issued by one (1) or more contiguous states,
 8 as defined in § 6-17-430.

9
 10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(c)(2)(B), concerning scores that
 11 an applicant must obtain for initial licensure or licensure in an additional
 12 area, is amended to read as follows:

13 (B)(i) An applicant for initial licensure or licensure in
 14 an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless the
 15 applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the state board that is
 16 consistent with the recommendations of the Professional Licensure Standards
 17 Board.

18 (ii) Scores set by the state board under subdivision
 19 (c)(2)(B)(i) of this section shall be at least one (1) point under the
 20 lowest-accepted scores for each certification area in each contiguous state,
 21 as defined in § 6-17-430.

22
 23 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(f)-(h), concerning additional
 24 requirements for individuals with out-of-state teaching licenses who are
 25 applying for teaching licenses in this state, are amended to read as follows:

26 (f) The state board shall promulgate rules for the licensure of
 27 individuals through reciprocity with other states under § 6-17-403 and for
 28 the licensure of individuals who have a teaching license issued by a
 29 contiguous state under § 6-17-430.

30 (g) The state board shall waive the examination requirements under
 31 subsection (c) of this section for an individual applying for a first-time
 32 Arkansas license who has a ~~valid~~:

33 (1) Valid out-of-state teaching license and three (3) years'
 34 documented teaching experience as required by the rules promulgated by the
 35 state board; or

36 (2) Valid teaching license issued by a contiguous state under §

1 6-17-430.

2 (h) A Except for those individuals who are applying for a first-time
3 Arkansas license under subdivision (g)(2) of this section, a teacher who has
4 fewer than three (3) years' documented teaching experience shall have up to
5 three (3) years to pass the stand-alone reading assessment, during which the
6 teacher may work under a provisional license.

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8 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403(a) and (b), concerning provisional
9 licensure and additional licensure requirements for teachers who are trained
10 and licensed in other states, are amended to read as follows:

11 (a)(1) The Except as provided under subdivision (a)(2) of this
12 section, the State Board of Education may issue a one-year nonrenewable
13 provisional license to ~~any~~ a teacher who seeks Arkansas licensure and is
14 trained in and licensed by a state other than Arkansas if the teacher has
15 been in good standing during the most recent three (3) years of teaching in
16 another state.

17 (2) However, the state board shall issue a standard five-year
18 teaching license without the additional requirements under subdivision (a)(1)
19 of this section to an individual whose teaching license was issued by a
20 contiguous state under § 6-17-430.

21 (b)(1)(A) A Except as provided under subdivision (b)(1)(B) of this
22 section, a person who has not successfully completed the licensure tests
23 required under § 6-17-402 and who has not previously held an Arkansas
24 standard license but meets degree, course work, and experience requirements
25 for a standard license and who otherwise qualifies to teach in the public
26 schools of this state may receive a three-year nonrenewable provisional
27 license and be employed by any public school district in this state for a
28 period not to exceed three (3) years while completing the professional
29 development, course work, or training necessary to successfully pass the
30 stand-alone reading assessment under § 6-17-402.

31 (B) However, an individual whose teaching license was
32 issued by a contiguous state under § 6-17-430 is not subject to the
33 additional requirements for licensure under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this
34 section.

35 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
36 successfully completed the licensure tests required under § 6-17-402 shall

1 not be penalized by the state board provided that the length of employment of
2 the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

3
4 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403(c)(4), concerning completion of
5 licensure tests for out-of-state teachers applying for a standard Arkansas
6 teaching license, is amended to read as follows:

7 (4)(A) Successful completion of the licensure tests required
8 under § 6-17-402~~+~~.

9 (B) An individual whose teaching license was issued by a
10 contiguous state, as defined in § 6-17-430, is not required to successfully
11 complete the licensure tests required under § 6-17-402;

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13 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 4, is amended
14 to add an additional section to read as follows:

15 6-17-430. Contiguous state licensure.

16 (a) It is the intent of this section to assist the state with teacher
17 shortages and license deficiencies that currently inhibit teachers in this
18 state but not teachers in contiguous states.

19 (b) As used in this section, "contiguous state" means a state that
20 shares a border with Arkansas.

21 (c) The State Board of Education shall issue an Arkansas teaching
22 license to an individual in a contiguous state who holds a valid teaching
23 license and is qualified to teach in any:

24 (1) Grade level; and

25 (2) Certification area.

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