

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1538

5 By: Representative Vaught  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
9 HOURS; TO AMEND THE TEACHER COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF  
10 2003; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OPEN-  
11 ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FROM REQUIRING  
12 ADDITIONAL HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO  
13 REQUIRE PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS OBTAIN AN ESTABLISHED  
14 AMOUNT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 CONCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL  
19 DEVELOPMENT HOURS.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402(1)(A), concerning the definition  
26 of a "basic contract" under the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is  
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (1)(A)(i) "Basic contract" means a teacher employment contract  
29 for one hundred ninety (190) days that includes ~~no less than~~ six (6) days of  
30 professional development, except as provided under subdivision (1)(B) of this  
31 section for teachers employed in a Civilian Student Training Program or the  
32 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

33 (ii) A public school district or open-enrollment  
34 public charter school shall not require additional professional development  
35 hours that exceed the six (6) days of professional development required under  
36 subdivision (1)(A)(i) of this section.



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 2 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(e)(3)(A), concerning the required  
 3 professional development courses under the professional development schedule  
 4 for teachers, is amended to read as follows:

5 (3)(A) ~~The~~ Upon the issuance of an initial teaching license by  
 6 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education ~~shall not issue an initial~~  
 7 ~~teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the~~  
 8 ~~required professional development concerning,~~ an applicant shall obtain  
 9 training in the following areas within his or her first two (2) years of  
 10 initial employment as a licensed teacher in this state:

- 11 (i) Mandated ~~reporters~~ reporting under § 6-61-133;
- 12 (ii) Family and community engagement under § 6-15-  
 13 1703;
- 14 (iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under §  
 15 6-17-708;
- 16 (iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703; and
- 17 (v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

18 (B) However, an applicant who has obtained the training  
 19 required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section in a separate educator  
 20 preparation program or in another state and who has provided the division  
 21 with verification of the obtainment of the training shall not be subject to  
 22 the additional training required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.

23 ~~(B)(C)~~ For a teaching license issued under the state's  
 24 reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Division of Elementary  
 25 and Secondary Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee  
 26 obtains the professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of  
 27 this section.

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 29 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7, is amended  
 30 to add an additional section to read as follows:

31 6-17-712. Private school teacher – Professional development required.

32 (a) As used in this section:

33 (1) "Private school" means a nonpublic school established by an  
 34 agency other than the state or its subdivisions that:

- 35 (A) Offers kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12); and
- 36 (B) Is primarily supported by funds that are not public

1 funds; and

2 (2)(A) "Teacher" means an individual who is engaged directly in  
3 instruction with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy  
4 percent (70%) of the individual's contracted time.

5 (B) "Teacher" also includes a:

6 (i) Guidance counselor; and

7 (ii) Librarian.

8 (b) A teacher employed by a private school shall obtain six (6) days  
9 of professional development, as defined by § 6-17-704, per school year.

10 (c)(1) The professional development required for a teacher employed by  
11 a private school under subsection (b) of this section shall include without  
12 limitation professional development:

13 (A) On mental health awareness and teen suicide awareness  
14 and prevention, as required by § 6-17-708;

15 (B) On human trafficking, as required by § 6-17-710;

16 (C) On bullying prevention and the recognition of the  
17 relationship between incidents of bullying and the risk of suicide, as  
18 required by § 6-17-711; and

19 (D) For mandated reporters, as required under § 6-61-133.

20 (2) A private school may implement a professional development  
21 schedule for the topics required under subdivision (c)(1) of this section  
22 according to the professional development schedule established by § 6-17-709.

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