1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H3/8/23	
2	94th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2023		HOUSE BILL 1538
4			
5	By: Representative Vaught		
6			
7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT (	CONCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOP	MENT
9	HOURS; 7	O AMEND THE TEACHER COMPENSATION PROGRAM	M OF
10	2003; TC	PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND	OPEN-
11	ENROLLME	NT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FROM REQUIRING	
12	ADDITION	NAL HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO	C
13	REQUIRE	PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS OBTAIN AN ESTABL	LISHED
14	AMOUNT (	OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS; AND FO	)R
15	OTHER PU	IRPOSES.	
16			
17			
18		Subtitle	
19	CO	NCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL	
20	DE	VELOPMENT HOURS.	
21			
22			
23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	C GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:
24			
25	SECTION 1. An	kansas Code § 6-17-2402(1)(A), concernin	ng the definition
26	of a "basic contract	" under the Teacher Compensation Program	n of 2003, is
27	amended to read as f	collows:	
28	(1)(A) <u>(</u>	.) "Basic contract" means a teacher emp	loyment contract
29	for one hundred nine	ety (190) days that includes <del>no less tha</del>	A six (6) days of
30	professional develop	oment, except as provided under subdivis:	ion (1)(B) of this
31	section for teachers	employed in a Civilian Student Training	g Program or the
32	Arkansas National Gu	ard Youth Challenge Program.	
33		(ii) A public school district or op	<u>pen-enrollment</u>
34	public charter schoo	ol shall not require more than four (4)	<u>days of</u>
35	professional develop	oment in addition to the six (6) days of	<u>professional</u>
36	<u>development included</u>	<i>l in a basic contract under</i> subdivision	(1)(A)(i) of this



HB1538

1	section.
2	
3	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-709(e)(3)(A), concerning the required
4	professional development courses under the professional development schedule
5	for teachers, is amended to read as follows:
6	(3)(A) The Upon the issuance of an initial teaching license by
7	the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not issue an initial
8	teaching license until the applicant verifies that he or she has obtained the
9	required professional development concerning, an applicant shall obtain
10	training in the following areas within his or her first two (2) years of
11	initial employment as a licensed teacher in this state:
12	(i) Mandated reporters reporting under § 6-61-133;
13	(ii) Family and community engagement under § 6-15-
14	1703;
15	(iii) Teen suicide awareness and prevention under §
16	6-17-708;
17	(iv) Arkansas history under § 6-17-703; and
18	<pre>(v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.</pre>
19	(B) However, an applicant who has obtained the training
20	required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section in a separate educator
21	preparation program or in another state and who has provided the division
22	with verification of the obtainment of the training shall not be subject to
23	the additional training required under subdivision (e)(3)(A) of this section.
24	(B)(C) For a teaching license issued under the state's
25	reciprocity provisions to an out-of-state teacher, the Division of Elementary
26	and Secondary Education shall issue a provisional license until the licensee
27	obtains the professional development identified in subdivision (e)(3)(A) of
28	this section.
29	
30	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7, is amended
31	to add an additional section to read as follows:
32	<u>6-17-712.</u> Private school teacher — Professional development required.
33	(a) As used in this section:
34	(1) "Private school" means a nonpublic school established by an
35	agency other than the state or its subdivisions that:
36	(A) Offers kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12); and

2

03-08-2023 09:54:30 TNL236

1	(B) Receives state funding in any form or amount; 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)(l) of this section
22	according to the professional development schedule established by § 6-17-709.
23	
24	/s/Vaught
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34 25	
35 26	
36	

3