1	State of Arkansas
2	95th General Assembly
3	Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/16/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1023

4

5 Representatives A. Collins, *D. Garner, Springer, Gonzales Worthen*

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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM;

10 TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN

11 FORGIVENESS UNDER THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION

12 PROGRAM; TO AMEND THE LOAN REPAYMENT AMOUNTS UNDER

13 THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER

14 PURPOSES.

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17 **Subtitle**

18 TO AMEND THE STATE TEACHER EDUCATION

19 PROGRAM; AND TO AMEND THE ELIGIBILITY

20 REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS AND

21 THE LOAN REPAYMENT AMOUNTS UNDER THE

22 STATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1604(b), concerning the standards for

27 loan repayments under the State Teacher Education Program, is amended to read

28 as follows:

29   (b) The division shall adopt standards for awarding the loan

30 repayments to a public school teacher with an Arkansas teacher's license an

31 applicant who is eligible to participate in the program under § 6-81-1605

32 teaching in a:

33   (1) Subject area with a teacher shortage; or

34   (2) Geographic area with teacher shortage.

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36   SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1605 is amended to read as follows:

1   6-81-1605. Eligibility.
2   To be eligible for the State Teacher Education Program, an applicant
3   shall:
4   (1) Teach full-time ~~at~~:
5   (A) At a public school district in a subject area or
6   geographic area with a teacher shortage, as identified by the Division of
7   Higher Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and
8   Secondary Education; or
9   (B) In a public early childhood education program that
10   serves children whose ages may range from birth through prekindergarten;
11   (2) ~~Hold~~ Either:
12   (A) Hold a valid Arkansas teacher's license; or
13   (B) Hold a birth through prekindergarten teaching
14   credential from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of
15   the Department of Human Services; and
16   (3)(A) Meet additional continuing eligibility criteria
17   established by the Division of Higher Education.
18   (B) An individual who has earned a teaching license upon
19   the successful completion of an alternative educator preparation program is
20   an eligible student under this section.
21
22   SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1606(a), concerning loan repayments
23   under the State Teacher Education Program, is amended to read as follows:
24   (a)(1) The State Teacher Education Program shall be used to provide a
25   loan repayment for federal student loans in the amount of ~~six thousand~~
26   ~~dollars ($6,000)~~ ten thousand dollars ($10,000) per year for a maximum of
27   ~~three (3)~~ five (5) years for ~~a licensed teacher who graduated from a teacher~~
28   ~~education program after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in this~~
29   ~~state or successfully completed an alternative educator preparation program~~
30   ~~after April 2004 and teaches in a public school in the State Teacher~~
31   ~~Education Program:~~
32   ~~(A) In a subject area designated by the Division of Higher~~
33   ~~Education in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary~~
34   ~~Education as having a critical shortage of teachers; and~~
35   ~~(B) Located in a geographical area of the state designated~~
36   ~~by the Division of Higher Education in consultation with the Division of~~

1   ~~Elementary and Secondary Education as having a critical shortage of teachers~~

2   an individual who is eligible to participate in the program under § 6-81-

3   1605.

4   (2) A licensed teacher who is given intensive support status

5   under the Teacher Excellence and Support System, § 6-17-2801 et seq., shall

6   be ineligible for receipt of funds under the ~~State Teacher Education Program~~

7   program for the school year.

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9   /s/A. Collins

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