

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1303

By: Representative C. Douglas

By: Senator Hickey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE REGARDING THE TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; TO PRIORITIZE THE AWARDING OF FUNDS TO TEACHERS FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION IN CERTAIN FIELDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE ARKANSAS CODE REGARDING THE TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; AND TO PRIORITIZE THE AWARDING OF FUNDS TO TEACHERS FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATION IN CERTAIN FIELDS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-605(a), concerning the priority of awarding funds under the Teacher Opportunity Program, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) The first priority for the award of funds under the Teacher Opportunity Program is the award of reimbursements ~~under the Dual Licensure Incentive Program, §§ 6-81-608 and 6-81-609~~ for additional education in:

(A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields;

(B) Computer science;

(C) Literacy or reading;

(D) Prekindergarten education; or



(E) Special education.

(2) If funds are available after all awards are made under ~~the Dual Licensure Incentive Program~~ subdivision (a)(1) of this section, then additional reimbursements may be made in accordance with the following:

(A) ~~Students~~ A student may receive reimbursements up to but not in excess of the cost of his or her student fees, books, and instructional supplies at the public institution of higher education in this state assessing the highest rate of student fees;

(B) The reimbursements made to one (1) ~~individual~~ student within one (1) fiscal year may not exceed the costs associated with six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent of six (6) semester credit hours; and

(C) All other requirements established by the Department of Higher Education are met.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-81-607(3), concerning the definition of "student", is amended to read as follows:

(3) "Student" means a classroom teacher who is attending an institution of higher education ~~as part of the Dual Licensure Incentive Program, §§ 6-81-608 and 6-81-609~~ for additional education in:

(A) Science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields;

(B) Computer science;

(C) Literacy or reading;

(D) Prekindergarten education; or

(E) Special education.

APPROVED: 02/13/2017