

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 456

By: Senator Elliott
By: Representative Lenderman

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS GOVERNING EDUCATOR
LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS GOVERNING EDUCATOR
LICENSURE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403(c), concerning provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in other states, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license to an individual who furnishes the Department of Education proof of the following:

- (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas equivalent that:
 - (A) Was issued in another state; and
 - (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent two (2) years of the applicant's teaching experience;
- (2) Successful completion of the criminal records checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;
- (3) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at least a baccalaureate degree;
- (4) Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented



teaching experience;

(5) Reports evidencing passing test scores on the appropriate basic-skills assessment mandated by the state board for educator licensure or its substantial equivalent, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented teaching experience;

(6) Completion of a program for:

(A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

(B) Teacher education accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, Teacher Education Accreditation Council, or Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

(C) Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards; and

~~(6)~~(7) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(3), concerning nontraditional licensure, is amended to read as follows:

(3) The state board may require an applicant who meets the criteria of subdivision (e)(1) of this section to submit proof of the following academic eligibility:

(A) ~~A passing~~ Passing scores, as set by the state board, on a state-required basic-skills, pedagogical, and content-area assessments, or their substantial equivalents; and

(B)(i) If required by state board rules for the grade level and content area for which the applicant seeks licensure, successful completion of courses in Arkansas History or ~~Methods of Teaching Reading~~ reading and writing in content areas, or both.

(ii) An applicant who has successfully completed the two-year Teach for America program is exempt from the ~~Methods of Teaching Reading~~ requirement of courses in reading and writing in content areas;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(f), concerning nontraditional licensure, is amended to read as follows:

(f)(1) The state board shall issue a nonrenewable three-year provisional professional teaching license to an applicant who submits to the department the following:

- (A) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at least a baccalaureate degree;
- (B) Evidence of a minimum of three (3) years of employment experience in the content area that the applicant seeks to teach;
- (C) Evidence of an offer of employment to teach classes for credit in an Arkansas public school;
- (D) A statement of justification from the applicant relating the applicant's experience to teaching in the content area in which the applicant seeks to teach;
- (E) Two (2) professional letters of recommendation submitted by the applicant's references;
- (F) ~~A passing score~~ Passing scores on the state-required basic-skills and content knowledge and pedagogical tests for the content area in which the applicant seeks to teach; and
- (G) Successful completion of the criminal background checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410.
- (2)(A)(i) An individual who receives a three-year provisional teaching license under this subsection shall ~~pass the Praxis II Pedagogy Assessment or have thirty (30)~~ have in the first year of provisional licensure twenty-four (24) hours of training in pedagogy as determined by the Department of Education.
- (ii) The ~~thirty (30)~~ twenty-four (24) hours of training in pedagogy are in addition to and not considered a part of the sixty (60) hours of professional development required for teachers by their employing school district or public school.
- (3) At the end of ~~three (3) years~~ each year of provisional licensure, the licensee shall undergo a summative evaluation as required by Arkansas law.
- (4)(A) ~~The~~ At the end of three (3) years of provisional licensure, the state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license to the licensee if the licensee ~~successfully completes a performance-based assessment that includes student achievement;~~
- (A) Submits passing scores on the state-required pedagogical assessment or its substantial equivalent for the content area in which the applicant seeks to teach;
- (B) Is identified by the employing school district as

proficient or above on a summative evaluation under § 6-17-2805 for the third year of provisional licensure; and

(C) Is recommended for full licensure by the superintendent of the employing school district.

~~(B) The performance based assessment shall be:~~

~~(i) Approved by the state board;~~

~~(ii) Paid for by the state; and~~

~~(iii) Administered no earlier than the completion of the first academic school year of teaching and before the expiration of the three year provisional license.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-428(k), concerning ethical violations, is amended to read as follows:

(k) The ethics subcommittee shall complete its investigation of an ethics complaint and take action:

(1) Within one hundred fifty (150) days of authorizing the investigation of the ethics complaint; or

(2) If a hearing is conducted, within one hundred eighty (180) days of ~~receiving the ethics complaint~~ authorizing the investigation of the ethics complaint.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-17-919(a), concerning warrants void without valid license and contract, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All warrants issued in payment of teachers' salaries are void unless:

(1)(A) The teacher is licensed to teach in the State of Arkansas by a license issued by the State Board of Education; or

(B) ~~The public school district employing the teacher has other documentation from the Office of Professional Licensure of the Department of Education authorizing employment of the teacher under the conditions set forth by the department in the documentation~~ teacher is a substitute teacher employed under § 6-15-1004 and rules of the State Board of Education;

(2) The teacher has been employed by a valid written contract; and

(3) Copies of such contract are on file in the office of the

county treasurer or the school district treasurer if the school district has its own treasurer.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-422(h)(1), concerning the duties of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Develop and recommend for adoption to the State Board of Education minimum college level preparatory and grade point average requirements for all teachers applying for ~~initial licensure or additional licensure after July 1, 2007~~, that shall include minimum requirements for:

- (A) Course of study;
- (B) Program approval;
- (C) Range of approved hours; and
- (D) In-class teaching internships or practice teaching hours;