

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

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 21

By: Senator A. Clark

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON APPLYING FOR AN  
ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE OR AN  
ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING LICENSE  
TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS THE FOUNDATIONS OF READING TEST  
AND THE GENERAL CURRICULUM TEST OF THE MASSACHUSETTS  
TESTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE AS A CONDITION OF  
LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO REQUIRE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS TO BE  
SUCCESSFULLY PASSED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN  
ELEMENTARY-LEVEL GENERAL TEACHING LICENSE  
OR ELEMENTARY-LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TEACHING LICENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(b)-(d), concerning teacher licensure, is amended to read as follows:

(b)(1) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules ~~and regulations~~ for the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of licensure of teachers in the public schools of this state.

(2)(A) In addition to other requirements, ~~any:~~

(i) A person applying for initial licensure as a secondary level teacher or as an administrator in the public schools or a licensed secondary level teacher, a licensed elementary general education teacher, or an administrator applying for a license in an additional area



shall take and complete a test recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the State Board of Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education; and

(ii)(a) A person applying for initial licensure as an elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special education teacher shall take and complete the Foundations of Reading Test and the General Curriculum Test of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, including the mathematics subtest, and submit the scores to the department.

(b) The State Board of Education shall not require additional testing for a person applying for initial licensure as an elementary level general education teacher or an elementary level special education teacher other than what is required under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section.

(B)(i) ~~No~~ An applicant for initial licensure or licensure in an additional area shall not receive a license after July 1, 2007, unless the applicant scores at or above the minimum level set by the State Board of Education that is consistent with the recommendations of the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

(ii) For tests administered under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii) of this section, the cut scores shall be set by the State Board of Education, with strong consideration given to the cut scores used in Massachusetts.

(C) All colleges and universities in this state shall report the results of the examinations to the department upon request.

(c) The State Board of Education shall not delegate to ~~any~~ a college or university any of the State Board of Education's powers or duties pertaining to the issuance, licensure, relicensure, and continuance of licensure of teachers in public schools in this state.

~~(d) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an individual applying for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-state teaching license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-403 is amended to read as follows:

6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in other states.

(a) The State Board of Education may issue a one-year nonrenewable provisional license to any teacher who seeks Arkansas licensure and is trained in and licensed by a state other than Arkansas if the teacher has been in good standing during the most recent three (3) years of teaching in another state.

(b)(1) ~~Any~~ A person who has not successfully completed the licensure ~~examination designated by the state board~~ tests required under ~~§ 6-17-601 et seq.~~ 6-17-402 and who has not previously held an Arkansas license but meets degree, course work, and experience requirements for a standard license and who otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this state may receive a one-year nonrenewable provisional license and be employed by any public school district in this state for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

(2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not successfully completed the ~~examination~~ licensure tests required under § 6-17-402 shall not be penalized by the state board ~~provided that~~ if the length of employment of the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

(c) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license to an individual who furnishes to 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~~ three (3) 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~~ Successful completion of the licensure tests required under § 6-17-402;

(5) Completion of a program for:

(A) Teacher education at a regionally accredited

institution of higher education;

(B) Teacher education nationally accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation; or

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

(6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(1) and (2), concerning nontraditional teacher licensure, are amended to read as follows:

(e)(1) As used in this subsection, “accelerated teaching program” means a program intended for college graduates that provides intensive training and support for a period of two (2) or more years for teaching and leading in schools.

(2) The state board shall issue a standard five-year teaching license to an applicant if the applicant has:

(A) Either:

(i) Successfully completed an accelerated teaching program, including:

(a) The Teach For America, Inc., program;

(b) The Arkansas Teacher Corps program offered by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville;

(c) The American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence program; or

(d) Another accelerated teaching program approved by the department; or

(ii) Been awarded a master’s degree in teaching from an accredited program at an institution of higher education; and

(B) Successfully completed the criminal records checks and Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410+; and

(C) Successfully completed the licensure tests required under § 6-17-402.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and confidentiality of test scores is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Scores from the tests required under ~~the provisions of~~ this subchapter and § 6-17-402 shall not be disclosed but shall be retained by the Department of Education as confidential records not subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., or any other act ~~which~~ that would require the disclosure thereof.

(2) However, the department shall provide each licensee with that person's test score and the grader's analysis of the writing portion of the test.