

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H3/8/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1538

5 By: Representative Vaught
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
9 HOURS; TO AMEND THE TEACHER COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF
10 2003; TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT AND OPEN-
11 ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FROM REQUIRING
12 ADDITIONAL HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; TO
13 REQUIRE PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS OBTAIN AN ESTABLISHED
14 AMOUNT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS; AND FOR
15 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

18 CONCERNING REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL
19 DEVELOPMENT HOURS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402(1)(A), concerning the definition
26 of a "basic contract" under the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, is
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (1)(A)(i) "Basic contract" means a teacher employment contract
29 for one hundred ninety (190) days that includes ~~no less than~~ six (6) days of
30 professional development, except as provided under subdivision (1)(B) of this
31 section for teachers employed in a Civilian Student Training Program or the
32 Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

33 (ii) A public school district or open-enrollment
34 public charter school shall not require more than four (4) days of
35 professional development in addition to the six (6) days of professional
36 development included in a basic contract under subdivision (1)(A)(i) of this



1 section.

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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 (v) Human trafficking under § 6-17-710.

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.

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30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 7, is amended
31 to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 6-17-712. 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

