

1 State of Arkansas
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4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 328

5 By: Senators A. Clark, J. English, Hester
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO APPLY FOR AN ELEMENTARY
9 EDUCATION K-6 TEACHING LICENSE OR A SPECIAL EDUCATION
10 K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS A STAND-
11 ALONE READING TEST AND A MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A
12 CONDITION OF LICENSURE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE A PERSON TO APPLY FOR A K-6
16 TEACHING LICENSE OR A SPECIAL EDUCATION
17 K-12 TEACHING LICENSE TO SUCCESSFULLY
18 PASS A STAND-ALONE READING TEST AND A
19 MULTI-SUBJECT TEST AS A CONDITION OF
20 LICENSURE.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code §§ 6-17-402 and 6-17-403 are amended to read
27 as follows:

28 6-17-402. Rules ~~and regulations~~.

29 (a) The State Board of Education shall issue the license of a
30 classroom teacher, an administrator, a guidance counselor, or a library media
31 specialist.

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

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

36 (i) A person applying for ~~initial~~ first-time



1 licensure as a secondary level teacher or as an administrator in the public
2 schools or a licensed secondary level teacher, a licensed elementary general
3 education teacher, or an administrator applying for a license in an
4 additional area shall take and complete a test ~~recognized by the National~~
5 ~~Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education~~ and approved by the State
6 Board of Education and submit the scores to the Department of Education; and

7 (ii)(a) A person applying for first-time licensure
8 for an elementary education (K-6) license or a special education (K-12)
9 license shall take and pass a:

10 (1) Subject matter content assessment;

11 (2) Pedagogy assessment; and

12 (3) Stand-alone assessment that examines
13 the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading
14 instruction based on the science of reading.

15 (b) The requirements under subdivision
16 (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a) of this section shall apply to a person who:

17 (1) Enters a teacher preparation program
18 beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter for a first-time
19 elementary level K-6 license or special education K-12 license or
20 endorsement; and

21 (2) Upon adoption of the stand-alone
22 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section, is
23 seeking to add the elementary education (K-6) license level by testing out.

24 (c) A person who enters an alternative
25 educator preparation program beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year and
26 receives an elementary education (K-6) provisional license or a special
27 education (K-12) provisional license shall take and pass the stand-alone
28 reading assessment under subdivision (b)(2)(A)(ii)(a)(3) of this section in
29 order to receive a standard license.

30 (d)(1) The recommendation for the adoption of
31 a stand-alone reading assessment shall be made by a diverse group of
32 stakeholders.

33 (2) The stakeholders shall recommend a
34 testing company for the stand-alone reading assessment that provides an
35 extensive practice test that enables prospective teachers to practice the
36 kinds of skills taught in their teacher preparation programs so they can

1 learn how to teach reading skills and diagnose reading problems.

2 (e) The stand-alone reading assessment adopted
3 by the state board shall:

4 (1) Include an adequate number of
5 assessment items to ensure instructional knowledge of reading that is based
6 on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

7 (2) Ensure that at least fifty percent
8 (50%) of the items assess instructional knowledge for beginning reading and
9 are based on evidence-based practices related to the science of reading;

10 (3) Include at least one (1) open-
11 response question so that test takers can indicate how well they can
12 demonstrate in writing their diagnostic interpretation of student reading
13 errors; and

14 (4) Include a clear distinction between
15 reading elements in and skills needed for literary and formation texts in
16 order to address the English language arts standards as determined by the
17 state board.

18 (f) The state board shall determine the cut
19 score for the stand-alone reading assessment with strong consideration based
20 on the national mean if the national mean is not less than seventy percent
21 (70%) correct answers on the stand-alone reading assessment.

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

27 (C) ~~All colleges and universities in this state~~ The
28 teacher preparation programs for licensure in this state shall report the
29 results of the examinations to the department upon request.

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

34 (d)(1) The State Board of Education shall waive the examination
35 requirements under subsection (b) of this section for an individual applying
36 for a first-time Arkansas license who has a valid out-of-state teaching

1 license and three (3) years' documented teaching experience as required by
2 the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.

3 (2) A teacher who has fewer than three (3) years' documented
4 teaching experience shall have up to three (3) years to pass the stand-alone
5 reading assessment, during which the teacher may work under a provisional
6 license.

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8 6-17-403. Provisional licensure for teachers trained and licensed in
9 other states.

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

15 (b)(1) ~~Any~~ A person who has not successfully completed the licensure
16 ~~examination designated by the state board~~ tests required under ~~§ 6-17-601 et~~
17 ~~seq. § 6-17-402~~ and who has not previously held an Arkansas standard license
18 but meets degree, course work, and experience requirements for a standard
19 license and who otherwise qualifies to teach in the public schools of this
20 state may receive a ~~one-year~~ three-year nonrenewable provisional license and
21 be employed by any public school district in this state for a period not to
22 exceed ~~one (1) year~~ three (3) years while completing the professional
23 development, coursework, or training necessary to successfully pass the
24 stand-alone reading assessment under § 6-17-402.

25 (2) A school district that hires a teacher who has not
26 successfully completed the ~~examination~~ licensure tests required under § 6-17-
27 402 shall not be penalized by the state board provided that the length of
28 employment of the teacher while nonlicensed does not exceed one (1) year.

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

32 (1) A valid, standard teaching license or its Arkansas
33 equivalent that:

- 34 (A) Was issued in another state; and
- 35 (B) Has been in good standing during the most recent ~~two~~
36 ~~(2)~~ three (3) years of the applicant's teaching experience;

1 (2) Successful completion of the criminal records checks and
2 Child Maltreatment Central Registry check under § 6-17-410;

3 (3) Higher education transcripts evidencing the award of at
4 least a baccalaureate degree;

5 (4) ~~Reports evidencing test scores required for licensing by the~~
6 ~~licensing state, unless the individual has three (3) years of documented~~
7 ~~teaching experience~~ Successful completion of the licensure tests required
8 under § 6-17-402;

9 (5) Completion of a program for:

10 (A) Teacher education at a nationally or regionally
11 accredited institution of higher education;

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

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

18 (6) Payment of applicable licensure fees.
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20 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(2), concerning nontraditional
21 teacher licensure, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
22 follows:

23 (C) Successfully completed the licensure tests required
24 under § 6-17-402.
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26 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-17-603(a), concerning the reporting and
27 confidentiality of test scores, is amended to read as follows:

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

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