State of Arkansas

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1638

92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

By: Representatives F. Allen, Vaught, K. Ferguson, Nicks, Walker
By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A
TEACHING LICENSE; TO AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING THE
ASSESSMENTS A PERSON MUST PASS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A
TEACHING LICENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS REGARDING THE
ASSESSMENTS A PERSON MUST PASS IN ORDER
TO OBTAIN A TEACHING LICENSE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-402(c)(2)(A)(ii)(a), concerning the
application of a person who is applying for the first time for an elementary
education kindergarten through grade six (K-6) license or a special education
kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) license, is amended to read as
follows:

(ii)(a) A person applying for first-time licensure
for an elementary education K-6 kindergarten through grade six (K-6) license
or a special education K-12 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) license
shall take and pass

(1) Pass a:

  (A) Subject matter content

  (B) Stand-alone assessment; and

(2) Pedagogy assessment; and

Stand-alone assessment that
examines the acquisition of knowledge of essential components of beginning reading instruction based on the science of reading—i and

(2) Demonstrate pedagogical competence.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-409(e)(1), concerning licensure requirements for a person enrolled in an alternative educator preparation program, is amended to read as follows:

(1)(A) Passing scores, as set by the state board, on state-required pedagogical and subject matter content-area assessments, or their substantial equivalents.

(B) As used in this subdivision (e)(1), “substantial equivalents” includes without limitation the assessments required by the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence program and any alternative method of demonstrating subject matter content competency identified by the state board under § 6-15-1004.

(C) An individual under this section shall demonstrate pedagogical competence;