

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

As Engrossed: S3/22/01 S4/4/01

A Bill

Act 1765 of 2001
SENATE BILL 979

5 By: Senator Wilkins
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-17-202 TO
10 PROHIBIT SCHOOL BOARDS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
11 FROM ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING EFFORTS OF TEACHERS TO
12 SECURE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS
13 SUBCHAPTER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-17-202
16 TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL BOARDS AND THEIR
17 REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACTIVELY
18 DISCOURAGING EFFORTS OF TEACHERS TO
19 SECURE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR
20 IN THIS SUBCHAPTER.
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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 6-17-202 is amended to read as follows:
27 6-17-202. Applicability.

28 (a) The provisions of this subchapter shall not apply in any district
29 which chooses to officially recognize in its policies an organization
30 representing the majority of the teachers of the district for the purpose of
31 negotiating personnel policies, salaries, and educational matters of mutual
32 concern under a written policy agreement.

33 (b) School boards or their representatives shall *not take or threaten*
34 *actions which interfere with, restrain, or coerce a teacher in the exercise*
35 *of the teacher's right to have an organization represent a majority of the*
36 *teachers as set forth in this section.*

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SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly that state law provides teachers the opportunity to seek recognition by their school boards for negotiating personnel policies, salaries and other matters; that school boards and their representatives should not discourage efforts by teachers to exercise their rights under Arkansas law; that some teachers in Arkansas have been threatened with a loss of compensation for exercising teacher's rights; and that passage of this act is necessary to ensure that teachers are not threatened by their employers because of any actions taken by the teacher in exercising the teacher's rights as guaranteed by state law. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/ Wilkins

APPROVED: 4/18/2001