

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 First Extraordinary Session, 2006
4

A Bill

Call Item 12

HOUSE BILL 1008

5 By: Representatives Elliott, Mahony, Cook, Walters
6 By: Senators Argue, Broadway, J. Jeffress
7
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARITY IN BENEFITS AND EMPLOYER
11 CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN THE
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE
13 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARITY IN BENEFITS AND
16 EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES
17 PARTICIPATING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
18 EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.
19
20
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117, pertaining to the public school
25 employees' health insurance program, is amended to add an additional
26 subsection to read as follows:

27 (c)(1) A school district shall:

28 (A) Provide the same employer-provided health insurance
29 benefits for all full-time school district employees; and

30 (B) Pay the same employer contribution rate for each
31 eligible employee electing to participate in the public school employees'
32 health insurance program.

33 (2) If a school district entered into a contract with a
34 superintendent, teacher, or other personnel prior to the effective date of
35 this subsection (c) and the contract provides for a higher employer
36 contribution rate than is paid for a majority of the certified personnel in



1 the district, then the district may continue to pay the higher contribution
2 rate as provided under the existing contract, but not under extensions,
3 addendums, or new contracts created after the effective date of this
4 subsection (c) without increasing all other employees to the same rate.

5
6 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Arkansas Supreme Court
8 declared the public school funding system to be inadequate and that the
9 public schools are operating under a constitutional infirmity which must be
10 corrected immediately; that to correct the constitutional infirmity and to
11 ensure adequate funding for public education, the General Assembly should act
12 to reduce the disparity in health insurance benefits within a school
13 district; and that this act is necessary to allow school districts sufficient
14 time to make all necessary adjustments. Therefore, an emergency is declared
15 to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public
16 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

17 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

18 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
19 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
20 bill; or

21 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
22 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

23
24
25 APPROVED: 4/11/2006