

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1224

5 By: Representative Harrelson  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE RETIREE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE  
10 PREMIUM COSTS UNDER THE ARKANSAS TEACHER  
11 RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES AND  
12 RETIRED PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES; TO PERMIT STATE  
13 CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM  
14 COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARKANSAS TEACHER  
15 RETIREMENT SYSTEM WHO ARE NOT STATE EMPLOYEES;  
16 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
17

## Subtitle

18 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE RETIREE GROUP HEALTH  
19 INSURANCE PREMIUM COSTS AND TO PERMIT  
20 STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROUP HEALTH  
21 INSURANCE PREMIUM COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS  
22 IN THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT  
23 SYSTEM WHO ARE NOT STATE EMPLOYEES.  
24  
25  
26  
27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
29

30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1112 is amended to read as follows:

31 6-17-1112. Life and disability insurance - Members of retirement  
32 systems.

33 (a) Members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the Arkansas  
34 Public Employees' Retirement System who have rendered, or shall render,  
35 service as employees of the public schools who hereafter retire and receive  
36 retirement benefits under such systems shall be eligible to participate in



1 the group insurance program ~~instituted pursuant to~~ administered by the  
 2 Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Finance and Administration  
 3 under the provisions of this subchapter and other laws enacted to implement  
 4 such programs, provided that such persons are participating in the group  
 5 insurance program at the time of retirement.

6 (b)(1) In addition, upon the death of an active member ~~or a retired~~  
 7 ~~member~~ of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, the survivors of such  
 8 member who are eligible for or are receiving an annuity under the system and  
 9 who were covered on the active member's health insurance policy at the time  
 10 of death shall have the option of continuing to be a member of such insurance  
 11 group at the prevailing rates established for members of the Arkansas Teacher  
 12 Retirement System, upon application for such coverage.

13 (2) Upon the death of a retired member of the Arkansas Teacher  
 14 Retirement System, a survivor of a member who was receiving an annuity under  
 15 the system and who was covered on the member's health insurance policy at the  
 16 time of the member's death shall have the option of continuing to be a member  
 17 of the insurance group at the prevailing rates established for the members of  
 18 the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System upon application for the coverage.

19 (c)(1) ~~However, persons~~ A person drawing retirement benefits under the  
 20 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the Arkansas Public Employees'  
 21 Retirement System who ~~wish~~ elects to participate or continue to participate  
 22 in the group insurance program provided ~~for herein~~ by the Employee Benefits  
 23 Division of the Department of Finance and Administration shall pay the ~~full~~  
 24 ~~amount~~ retiree portion of the premium or cost of the policy, ~~and such.~~

25 (2) The retiree portion of the premium or cost shall be deducted  
 26 from the retirement benefit ~~checks~~ check of ~~such participants~~ the  
 27 participant.

28 (d) The retiree portion of the premium or cost of the policy shall not  
 29 be greater than that required to be paid by a state-employee retiree in the  
 30 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System or the Arkansas Public Employees'  
 31 Retirement System under § 21-5-411(b).

32 (e)(1) The state may make a monthly contribution on behalf of the  
 33 members who participate in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the  
 34 Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System group insurance program provided  
 35 by the Employee Benefits Division of the Management Services Division of the  
 36 Department of Finance and Administration multiplied by the amount necessary

1 to meet the requirement of subsection (d) of this section.

2 (2) The state contribution amount shall not exceed the state  
3 contribution amount permitted by law for state contributions for members and  
4 retirees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the Arkansas Public  
5 Employees' Retirement System to the Employee Benefits Division of the  
6 Department of Finance and Administration for the benefit of state employees  
7 as provided in § 21-5-414.

8 (3) The Department of Finance and Administration may make a  
9 monthly contribution to partially defray the cost of the group insurance  
10 provided in this section utilizing funds made available for that purpose, not  
11 to exceed the amount authorized by law.

12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36