

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

DRAFT SAG/SAG
HOUSE BILL

5 By: Representative Gossage
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NEW TEACHER HEALTH INSURANCE
9 INCENTIVE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

11 TO ESTABLISH THE NEW TEACHER HEALTH
12 INSURANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11, is
20 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-17-1119. New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive Program.

22 (a) There is established the New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive
23 Program.

24 (b) The purpose of the New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive Program
25 is to encourage participation in the health insurance program provided for
26 public school employees.

27 (c) As used in this section "new teacher" means a teacher employed by
28 a school district who is on year one (1) of the salary schedule adopted by
29 the employing school district.

30 (d)(1) Beginning only with a new teacher hired in year one of the
31 teacher salary schedule during the 2015-2016 school year, a new teacher who
32 opts to participate in the highest tiered health insurance plan offered for
33 public school employees under the State and Public School Life and Health
34 Insurance Program, § 21-5-401 et seq., is eligible to receive a premium
35 subsidy under the New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive Program as follows:

36 (A) One hundred percent (100%) of the employee premium in

1 year one (1), beginning in the 2015-2016 school year;

2 (B) One hundred percent (100%) of the employee premium in
3 year two (2), beginning in the 2016-2017 school year;

4 (C) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee premium in
5 year three (3), beginning in the 2017-2018 school year;

6 (D) Fifty percent (50%) of the employee premium in year
7 four (4), beginning in the 2018-2019 school year; and

8 (E) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the employee premium in
9 year five (5), beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

10 (2) The New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive Program shall be
11 phased in over a period of five (5) years beginning in the 2015-2016 school
12 year.

13 (e) A school district that contributes in excess of the minimum
14 required under § 6-17-1117(a) shall continue to provide the same contribution
15 amount to new teachers as provided for other school district employees.

16 (f) If an employee opts to participate in a lower cost health
17 insurance plan with a health savings account, the amount of premium savings
18 shall be deposited into the employee's health savings account.

19 (g) The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board shall
20 adopt rules to implement the New Teacher Health Insurance Incentive Program.

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