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.

Act 1197 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H3/23/07		
2	86th General Assembly	A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2007		HOUSE BILL 226	50
4				
5	By: Representative Chester	rfield		
6				
7				
8		For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT	T TO PROVIDE BONUSES FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIE	ED	
10	PARAPR	ROFESSIONALS WHO OBTAIN ASSOCIATE DEGREE	ES OR	
11	COMPLE	TTE SIXTY (60) HOURS OF COURSE WORK AT A	AN	
12	INSTIT	CUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHE	ER	
13	PURPOS	GES.		
14				
15		Subtitle		
16	TO	PROVIDE BONUSES FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED		
17	PAR	RAPROFESSIONALS WHO OBTAIN ASSOCIATE		
18	DEG	GREES OR COMPLETE SIXTY (60) HOURS OF		
19	COU	URSE WORK AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER		
20	EDU	JCATION.		
21				
22				
23	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	ISAS:	
24				
25	SECTION 1. Ar	kansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subcha	pter 22 is amended	1
26	to add an additional	section to read as follows:		
27	<u>6-17-2206.</u> Hi	ghly qualified paraprofessional bonuses	<u>.</u>	
28	<u>(a)(1) The pu</u>	rpose of this section is to provide a b	oonus from the	
29	Department of Educat	ion in recognition of the efforts made	<u>by</u>	
30	paraprofessional emp	loyees who attain highly qualified stat	us.	
31	<u>(2) A p</u>	erson who is eligible for a bonus under	this section may	
32	receive a bonus unde	r subsection (b) or (c) but shall not r	eceive a bonus	
33	under both sections.			
34	<u>(3) The</u>	bonuses under this section are conting	ent upon the	
35	appropriation and av	ailability of funding.		

1	(b) A paraprofessional who is under a contract of employment with a
2	public school district or education service cooperative as a paraprofessional
3	employee on May 1, 2007, and who holds an associate degree or higher degree
4	shall be considered a highly qualified paraprofessional and shall receive a
5	one-time bonus of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
6	(c) A paraprofessional who is under a contract of employment with a
7	public school district or education service cooperative as a paraprofessional
8	employee on May 1, 2007, shall be considered a highly qualified
9	paraprofessional and shall receive a one-time bonus of five hundred dollars
10	(\$500) if he or she has:
11	(1) Completed sixty (60) hours of coursework at an institution
12	of higher education; or
13	(2) Passed the high-stakes test for highly qualified status.
14	
15	SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
16	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that paraprofessionals are
17	important to the delivery of educational services to students in the state;
18	that the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires all paraprofessionals who
19	provide instructional support and who work in a program supported with Title
20	I, Part A funds to meet certain federal qualification requirements to achieve
21	highly qualified paraprofessional status; that this act is immediately
22	necessary to authorize the Department of Education to provide bonuses for all
23	paraprofessional employees who have attained the highly qualified status.
24	Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
25	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
26	become effective on:
27	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
28	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
29	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
30	bill; or
31	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
32	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
33	
34	/s/ Chesterfield
35	
36	APPROVED: 4/4/2007