

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

As Engrossed: H3/14/11

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1819

5 By: Representative T. Bradford  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO *AMEND THE AUTHORITY OF AND SPECIFY* THE DATE  
9 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PAY THE *LICENSED*  
10 *SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST BONUS UNDER ARKANSAS CODE*  
11 *§ 6-17-413; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*  
12  
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### Subtitle

14 *TO AMEND THE AUTHORITY OF AND SPECIFY THE*  
15 *DATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO*  
16 *PAY THE LICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE*  
17 *PATHOLOGIST BONUS.*  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(d)(1) and (2), concerning the*  
24 *Department of Education's payment of a bonus to licensed speech-language*  
25 *pathologists in public schools, are amended to read as follows:*

26 *(d)(1) As used in this subsection, "~~certified~~ speech-language*  
27 *pathologist" means a speech-language pathologist who:*

28 *(A) Has a master's degree, which includes medical-based*  
29 *training;*

30 *(B) Has completed a one (1) year clinical fellowship;*

31 *(C) Has passed the specialty area of the National Teachers*  
32 *Examination; and*

33 *(D) Holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-*  
34 *Language Pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.*

35 *(2) ~~Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year and each school~~*  
36 *~~year thereafter~~ By December 1 of each year, the department shall pay a yearly*



1 incentive bonus of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to a speech-language  
2 pathologist who:

3 (A) Holds an Arkansas teaching license in speech-language  
4 pathology;

5 (B) Is a full-time employee of an Arkansas education  
6 service cooperative or public school district as a speech-language  
7 pathologist at the time of receiving the bonus; and

8 (C) Is not considered a purchased service contractor but  
9 may be employed under a teacher contract subject to renewal under § 6-17-  
10 1506.

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12 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-413(d) concerning bonuses paid to*  
13 *licensed speech-language pathologists, is amended to add an additional*  
14 *subdivision to read as follows:*

15 (5)(A)(i) If a speech-language pathologist who receives a bonus  
16 under this subsection leaves employment in the Arkansas public school system  
17 before completing three (3) continuous school years of employment, the  
18 speech-language pathologist shall repay the department a prorated portion of  
19 the bonus received in the school year based on a daily rate for the remainder  
20 of a school year in which the speech-language pathologist leaves employment.

21 (ii) The first year of the three (3) continuous  
22 school years is the first year that the speech-language pathologist received  
23 a bonus under this subsection (d).

24 (iii) The daily rate is calculated as the amount of  
25 the annual bonus paid to the speech-language pathologist divided by the  
26 number of days in the speech-language pathologist's contract.

27 (B) The State Board of Education may suspend the Arkansas  
28 speech-language pathology license of any person who fails to repay the amount  
29 of the bonus required to be repaid under this subdivision (d)(5).

30 (C) Repayment of all or a portion of a bonus under this  
31 subdivision (d)(5) is not required if, due to the death or disability of the  
32 speech-language pathologist or other extenuating circumstances as may be  
33 recognized by the State Board of Education, the speech-language pathologist  
34 does not remain employed in the Arkansas public school system for three (3)  
35 continuous school years after first receiving the bonus under this  
36 subsection.

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*/s/T. Bradford*

**APPROVED: 04/01/2011**