

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 1842 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: H3/3/05 H3/7/05 S3/15/05

A Bill

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL 1559

4
5 By: Representatives Sumpter, Adcock, *Abernathy, Adams, Blair, Blount, Burris, Chesterfield, Davis,*
6 *Elliott, Fite, Flowers, D. Johnson, J. Johnson, Kidd, Ledbetter, W. Lewellen, Mahony, Mathis, Rainey,*
7 *Saunders, Walters, Wills, Wyatt*
8 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Argue

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11 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

12 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE*
13 *PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE*
14 *PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

15
16 **Subtitle**

17 *AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR*
18 *THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH*
19 *INSURANCE PROGRAM.*

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

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25 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117 is amended to read as follows:*
26 *6-17-1117. Health insurance.*

27 ~~*(a) Beginning on July 1, 2001, local school districts shall pay the*~~
28 ~~*health insurance contribution rate of one hundred fourteen dollars (\$114) per*~~
29 ~~*month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public school*~~
30 ~~*employee health insurance program.*~~

31 ~~*(b) Beginning on October 1, 2003, local school districts shall pay the*~~
32 ~~*health insurance contribution rate of one hundred twenty two dollars (\$122)*~~
33 ~~*per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public*~~
34 ~~*school employee health insurance program.*~~

35 ~~*(c)*~~*(a)* *Beginning on October 1, 2004, local school districts shall pay*



1 the health insurance contribution rate of one hundred thirty-one dollars
2 (\$131) per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the
3 public school employee health insurance program.

4 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall pay the Employee Benefits
5 Division of the Department of Finance and Administration sixty-one dollars
6 (\$61) per month for each eligible employee of a public school district
7 electing to participate in the public school employees' health insurance
8 program administered by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance
9 Board.

10 (2) The funds provided to the Employee Benefits Division of the
11 Department of Finance and Administration under this subsection (b) shall be
12 administered by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board
13 for the benefit of the employee participants of the public school employees'
14 health insurance program.

15 (3) In the event that appropriation or funding is not provided, the
16 Department of Education shall not be responsible for the increased payments
17 for the public school employee health insurance program as established by
18 this Act. If funding and appropriation are provided but are inadequate for
19 the total number of employees electing to participate in the public school
20 employee health insurance program, the Department of Education shall pay a
21 proportional share on behalf of each participant. Notwithstanding the special
22 language provision in the appropriation act for the Department of Education
23 granting transfer authority or any other law to the contrary, appropriation
24 and funding provided for the purposes of this Act shall not be transferred by
25 the Department of Education for any other purpose.

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27 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
28 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the cost of insurance coverage
29 can be an impediment to teachers pursuing a career in the public school
30 system; that school districts more easily recruit and maintain quality
31 teachers if health insurance benefits are improved; and that this act will
32 provide such necessary improvements to current benefits coinciding with the
33 beginning of the fiscal year and school year. Therefore, an emergency is
34 declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the
35 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

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/s/ Sumpter

APPROVED: 04/08/2005