

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 1172 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: H3/26/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1224

5 By: Representatives Harrelson, *Cook*
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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.
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Subtitle

18
19 AN ACT TO EQUALIZE RETIREE GROUP HEALTH
20 INSURANCE PREMIUM COSTS AND TO PERMIT
21 STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROUP HEALTH
22 INSURANCE PREMIUM COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS
23 IN THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT
24 SYSTEM WHO ARE NOT STATE EMPLOYEES.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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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



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

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

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

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

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

29 (d) To the extent that funding is appropriated and available for this
30 purpose, the retiree portion of the premium or cost of a health insurance
31 policy under this section for a member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement
32 System who is not Medicare primary shall not exceed the retiree portion of
33 the premium or cost of a health insurance policy under this section for a
34 member of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System who is not
35 Medicare primary.

36 (e)(1) The state may make a monthly contribution on behalf of the

1 members who participate in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the
2 Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System group insurance program provided
3 by the Employee Benefits Division of the Management Services Division of the
4 Department of Finance and Administration multiplied by the amount necessary
5 to meet the requirement of subsection (d) of this section.

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

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

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17 */s/ Harrelson*

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19 **APPROVED: 4/7/2009**