

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 88

4  
5 By: Senator G. Jeffress  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ARKANSAS  
9 TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE  
10 BOARD FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM OF AN ELECTED TRUSTEE; TO  
11 REIMBURSE A TRUSTEE FOR REASONABLE EXPENSES TO ATTEND  
12 AN OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;  
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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17 TO FILL A VACANCY ON THE BOARD FOR AN  
18 UNEXPIRED TERM OF AN ELECTED TRUSTEE; TO  
19 REIMBURSE A TRUSTEE FOR REASONABLE  
20 EXPENSES TO ATTEND AN OFFICIAL BOARD  
21 MEETING; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-7-302(b)(2), concerning the vacancy of  
27 an elected trustee, is amended to read as follows:

28 (2)~~(A)~~ If a vacancy occurs in the office of an elected trustee,  
29 the board by majority vote may fill the vacancy ~~may be filled in a~~ by a:

30 (A) special Special election ~~held in accordance with the~~  
31 ~~rules adopted by the board for special elections;~~ or

32 ~~(B) If the board does not hold a special election, a~~  
33 ~~vacancy shall be filled in the next system election held upon the expiration~~  
34 ~~of a trustee's term, utilizing approved election procedures and requirements~~  
35 ~~for the position~~ Appointment of a trustee until the next system election.  
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-7-303(b), concerning the general duties  
2 of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b)(1) The trustees shall serve as trustees without compensation for  
5 their services as such, except that:

6 (A) ~~each~~ Each trustee may receive expense reimbursement in  
7 accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

8 (B) The system shall reimburse a trustee for reasonable expenses  
9 incurred in the performance of his or her duties as trustee, including  
10 without limitation, the cost of:

11 (i) A substitute teacher for a trustee;

12 (ii) Communication services required for paperless  
13 board meetings.

14 (2) Trustees are authorized to attend all system committee  
15 meetings, board meetings, and other official system functions without  
16 negative impact on his or her employment status.

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18 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
19 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that provisions of the Arkansas  
20 Teacher Retirement System statutes are in urgent need of revision to bring  
21 them into conformance with sound public pension policy; that this revision is  
22 of great importance to members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and  
23 to other citizens of the State of Arkansas; that when an unexpected vacancy  
24 occurs in a trustee position, the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher  
25 Retirement System must be able to appoint a trustee until a special election  
26 is called; that trustees are called away from their regular job duties and  
27 responsibilities to attend system board meetings and should be encouraged to  
28 attend and accommodated in their attendance to fulfill their elected board  
29 functions; and that this act is immediately necessary in order to maintain an  
30 orderly system of benefits for members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement  
31 System. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being  
32 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
33 become effective on:

34 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

35 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
36 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the

1 bill; or

2 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
3 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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