

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

# A Bill

Act 482 of 2001  
SENATE BILL 196

5 By: Senators Hunter, Faris  
6 By: Representative R. Smith  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LUMP-SUM BENEFIT TO  
11 BENEFICIARIES OF RETIREES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE  
12 HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO BE PAID  
13 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RETIREES' DEATH; TO DECLARE  
14 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
15

## Subtitle

16 TO PROVIDE A LUMP-SUM BENEFIT TO  
17 BENEFICIARIES OF RETIREES OF THE HIGHWAY  
18 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO BE PAID  
19 AT THE RETIREES' DEATH.  
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21  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. (a)(1) Beginning on the effective date of this act, the  
26 Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System shall pay an amount not to  
27 exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to the named beneficiary  
28 of the retiree or a member in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)  
29 immediately following the retiree's death.

30 (2) If there is more than one named beneficiary the amount shall  
31 be divided equally between the named beneficiaries.

32 (3) If there are no designated persons surviving the retiree or  
33 DROP member the lump sum shall be paid to the estate.

34 (b) If a retiree or a DROP member is entitled to a similar benefit from  
35 a reciprocal system then Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System  
36 shall pay a prorated share based on the number of years in the Arkansas State

1 Highway Employees' Retirement System divided by the total public service time.

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3 SECTION 2. [THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED TO  
4 CODIFY THIS SECTION.] No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall  
5 be implemented if it would cause the publicly supported retirement system's  
6 unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities to exceed a thirty (30) year  
7 amortization. No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall be  
8 implemented by any publicly supported system which has unfunded actuarial  
9 accrued liabilities being amortized over a period exceeding thirty (30) years  
10 until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is reduced to a level less than  
11 the standards prescribed by Arkansas Code, Title 24.

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13 SECTION 3. Emergency Clause. It is found and determined by the Eighty-  
14 third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that deceased retirees of the  
15 Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System leave beneficiaries in  
16 need of financial support, that there is a necessity of financial stability  
17 for beneficiaries during this time of crisis, that this benefit is then  
18 important to provide for retirees immediately, and that this act should  
19 therefore have immediate effect. Therefore an emergency is declared to exist  
20 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
21 peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by  
22 the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it  
23 shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which  
24 the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the  
25 veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house  
26 overrides the veto.

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29 APPROVED: 3/01/2001