

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1604

By: Representatives Flanagan and Hutchinson

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL STATE AGENCIES HAVING FORTY OR MORE EMPLOYEES ON JUNE 30, 1987 TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN EACH AGENCY BY TEN PERCENT DURING THE 1987-89 BIENNIUM, IF POSSIBLE THROUGH RETIREMENT, RESIGNATION OR DEATH OF EMPLOYEES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Austerity in State Government Act of 1987".

SECTION 2. Each agency of the State having forty (40) or more employees on the payroll on June 30, 1987 shall, if possible through the retirement, resignation or death of employees in each such agency, reduce the number of personnel employed by each such agency by ten percent (10%) during the 1987-89 biennium. The reduction in the number of employees in any agency may be accomplished by involuntary termination of employees only in the manner herein authorized.

When an employee of any such agency retires, resigns or dies, the vacancy created thereby shall not be filled unless the Director determines that failure to fill the vacant position will create a severe hardship for the agency in which event the position may be filled but in such event the agency shall terminate the employment of a less essential employee in the agency.

In carrying out the mandate of this Act, agencies shall give priority to the elimination of administrative, supervisory and support personnel who do not provide daily direct service to the clientele served by the agency.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to impair the authority of colleges and universities to honor existing contracts for academic personnel nor to otherwise require a reduction in staff to such extent as to seriously

impair the ability of such institutions to maintain their accreditation and to provide essential personnel to operate such institutions; provided, the Chief Fiscal Officer with the assistance of the Department of Higher Education shall adopt appropriate rules, regulations and guidelines concerning compliance with this Act by state supported colleges and universities in the State.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

