

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas As Enrolled: H2/21/97 H2/26/97 H2/27/97 S3/24/97 S3/26/97

2 81st General Assembly

## A Bill

3 Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL 1288

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5 By: Representatives Judy Smith and Wallis

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### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 6-18-704 TO ESTABLISH A  
10 MANDATORY NURSE TO STUDENT RATIO IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES."

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### Subtitle

14 "TO ESTABLISH A MANDATORY NURSE TO  
15 STUDENT RATIO IN ARKANSAS."

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

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-18-704 is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 "6-18-704. School nurse.

22 (a) In order to improve the health status and educational achievement  
23 of the children of this state, the General Assembly hereby determines that an  
24 appropriate school nurse-to-student ratio is ~~needed~~ essential to effectively  
25 meet the health care needs of these children.

26 (b) Beginning with the ~~1994-95~~ 1998-1999 school year, all school  
27 districts ~~should~~ shall have no less than the full-time equivalent of one (1)  
28 school nurse per one thousand (1,000) students or the proportionate ratio  
29 thereof.

30 (c) School nurses may be employed or provided by contract or agreement  
31 with other agencies or individuals provided that the prescribed ratio and  
32 equivalency are maintained. Provided, however, no school nurse may be  
33 employed by, or contract with, any public secondary or elementary school of  
34 this state except with the prior approval of the local school board.

35 (d) For purposes of this section, a school nurse shall mean ~~the~~  
36 ~~equivalent of~~ a licensed nurse engaging in school nursing activities."

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SECTION 2. (a) The provisions of this act shall only be effective upon the availability of state funds.

(b) Available funds shall be distributed to school districts based on the previous year's three-quarter average of the average daily membership.

SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 4. If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

*/s/Rep. Judy Smith, et al*