

State of Arkansas

83rd General Assembly

Regular Session, 2001

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1312

By: Representative Cleveland

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE TITLE 24, CHAPTER 7, SUBCHAPTER 6, TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL SECTION TO ESTABLISH SERVICE CREDIT IN THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 24-7-601 TO ELIMINATE RESTRICTIONS ON AWARDED CREDITED SERVICE FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH SERVICE CREDIT IN THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 24, Chapter 7, Subchapter 6, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24-7-610. Unused sick leave.

(a) Any active member who has more than twenty (20) years of credited service in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System shall receive credited service in the system for any unused sick days accumulated.

(b)(1) The member may receive up to one (1) year of service credit for a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days of unused sick leave.

(2) By rules and regulations, the Board of Trustees shall fix and determine the number of days of service to be credited to each member for each day of unused sick leave.

(3) In no case shall more than one hundred twenty (120) days of

1 unused sick leave be credited as more than one (1) year of service, nor shall  
2 more than one (1) year of service be credited any member for all unused sick  
3 leave surrendered by the member during the member's entire service time in the  
4 system.

5 (c) A member shall not receive service credit under this section for  
6 unused sick leave if the member also receives payment from the member's  
7 employer for the unused sick leave.

8 (d) If there is a question concerning the service credit of any person,  
9 the board shall have the power to decide the question of service credit.

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11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 24-7-601(c), concerning the limitation on  
12 granting credited service for unused sick leave under the Arkansas Teacher  
13 Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

14 (c)(1) Days of absence from service because of sickness shall be  
15 considered as service if the days are paid sick leave.

16 ~~(2) Days of paid sick leave shall not be considered service if~~  
17 ~~the payment is for unused sick leave.~~

18  
19 SECTION 3. [THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED TO  
20 CODIFY THIS SECTION.] No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall  
21 be implemented if it would cause the publicly supported retirement system's  
22 unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities to exceed a thirty (30) year  
23 amortization. No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall be  
24 implemented by any publicly supported system which has unfunded actuarial  
25 accrued liabilities being amortized over a period exceeding thirty (30) years  
26 until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is reduced to a level less than  
27 the standards prescribed by Arkansas Code, Title 24.