

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1877

4  
5 By: Representatives Hendren, Hutchinson, Bennett, Duggar, Fite, Rackley, Bledsoe, Files, Minton, D.  
6 Elliott, Parks, Bright, Holt, Altes, Womack

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO MANDATE REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF STATE  
11 EMPLOYEES IN ALL STATE AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS OF  
12 HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OFFSET  
13 THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STATE EMPLOYEES  
14 INCLUDED IN THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS ACT; AND  
15 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 AN ACT TO MANDATE REDUCTIONS IN THE  
19 NUMBER OF STATE EMPLOYEES IN ALL STATE  
20 AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
21 EDUCATION, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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

### SECTION 1. Find ing.

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27 There is growing concern among the general public that the Tobacco  
28 Settlement Proceeds Act approved by the voters at the November 7, 2000,  
29 General Election, is greatly increasing the size of state government by  
30 adding numerous state employees to what many people think is a state  
31 government which is already too large. In these times, when people are  
32 looking for less government, and a more austere government, the General  
33 Assembly has a duty and a responsibility to keep the size of state government  
34 in check. Even though the proceeds that the State of Arkansas will receive  
35 through the Tobacco Settlement will fund those additional employees for a  
36 period of time, those proceeds are finite and, when they are depleted, other

1 sources of revenue will be needed to take up the slack which often leads to  
2 tax increases.

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4 SECTION 2. (a) In order to offset any increase in the number of state  
5 employees caused by the implementation of the Tobacco Settlement Proceeds  
6 Act, the number of state employees shall be reduced an equal amount in all  
7 state agencies, state supported institutions of higher education, and the  
8 General Assembly by the end of the 2001 - 2003 biennium.

9 (b) In carrying out the mandate of this act, agencies, institutions,  
10 and the General Assembly, shall:

11 (1) Reduce the number of employees through the retirement,  
12 resignation, and death of current employees whenever possible; and

13 (2) Eliminate managerial, administrative, and supervisory  
14 personnel first, and only eliminate support personnel who do not provide  
15 direct services to the clientele served by the agency, institution, or the  
16 General Assembly.

17 (c) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State with the assistance of the  
18 Department of Higher Education shall determine the number of employees by  
19 which each agency, institution, or the General Assembly shall be reduced, and  
20 shall adopt appropriate rules, regulations and guidelines concerning  
21 compliance with this act for all agencies, institutions, and the General  
22 Assembly.

23 (d) When an employee of any agency, institution, or the General  
24 Assembly retires, resigns, or dies, the vacancy created shall not be filled  
25 unless the agency, institution, or the General Assembly is in compliance with  
26 the reduction policy established by this act, and only with the approval of  
27 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

28 (e) Nothing contained in this act shall be construed to impair the  
29 authority of any agency, institution, or the General Assembly to honor  
30 existing contracts for personnel, to require a reduction in staff to an  
31 extent as to seriously impair the ability of the agency or institution to  
32 maintain its certification or accreditation, to provide essential personnel  
33 to operate the agencies, institutions, or the General Assembly, or to  
34 interfere with any freeze on the hiring of personnel by state agencies,  
35 institutions, or the General Assembly.

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