

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.

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/22/01 S4/4/01

83rd General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2001

SENATE BILL 979

By: Senator Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-17-202 TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL BOARDS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING EFFORTS OF TEACHERS TO SECURE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SUBCHAPTER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-17-202 TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL BOARDS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACTIVELY DISCOURAGING EFFORTS OF TEACHERS TO SECURE NEGOTIATION RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SUBCHAPTER.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-17-202 is amended to read as follows:

6-17-202. Applicability.

(a) The provisions of this subchapter shall not apply in any district which chooses to officially recognize in its policies an organization representing the majority of the teachers of the district for the purpose of negotiating personnel policies, salaries, and educational matters of mutual concern under a written policy agreement.

(b) School boards or their representatives shall not take or threaten actions which interfere with, restrain, or coerce a teacher in the exercise of the teacher's right to have an organization represent a majority of the teachers as set forth in this section.

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2 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
3 General Assembly that state law provides teachers the opportunity to seek
4 recognition by their school boards for negotiating personnel policies,
5 salaries and other matters; that school boards and their representatives
6 should not discourage efforts by teachers to exercise their rights under
7 Arkansas law; that some teachers in Arkansas have been threatened with a loss
8 of compensation for exercising teacher's rights; and that passage of this act
9 is necessary to ensure that teachers are not threatened by their employers
10 because of any actions taken by the teacher in exercising the teacher's
11 rights as guaranteed by state law. Therefore, an emergency is declared to
12 exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
13 public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its
14 approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the
15 Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time
16 during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the
17 Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date
18 the last house overrides the veto.

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21 /s/ Wilkins
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