

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 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1559

4  
5 By: Representative Sumpter  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LOCAL REVENUE TO  
10 PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY REQUIRING STATE FUNDING TO  
11 SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR TEACHER INSURANCE COSTS; TO  
12 INCREASE THE STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING AMOUNT FOR  
13 SCHOOL YEAR 2005-2006 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS IN  
14 ORDER TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR TEACHER  
15 INSURANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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18 TO INCREASE STATE FOUNDATION FUNDING TO  
19 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR TEACHER  
20 INSURANCE.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117 is amended to read as follows:  
26 6-17-1117. Health insurance.

27 ~~(a) Beginning on July 1, 2001, local school districts shall pay the~~  
28 ~~health insurance contribution rate of one hundred fourteen dollars (\$114) per~~  
29 ~~month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public school~~  
30 ~~employee health insurance program.~~

31 ~~(b) Beginning on October 1, 2003, local school districts shall pay the~~  
32 ~~health insurance contribution rate of one hundred twenty two dollars (\$122)~~  
33 ~~per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public~~  
34 ~~school employee health insurance program.~~

35 ~~(c) Beginning on October 1, 2004, local school districts shall pay the~~  
36 ~~health insurance contribution rate of one hundred thirty one dollars (\$131)~~



1 ~~per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public~~  
2 ~~school employee health insurance program.~~

3 (a) For the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, local school  
4 districts shall pay the health insurance contribution rate of one hundred  
5 fifty-seven dollars (\$157) per month for each eligible employee electing to  
6 participate in the public school employee health insurance program.

7 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2006, local school districts shall pay the  
8 health insurance contribution rate of one hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$168)  
9 per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public  
10 school employee health insurance program.

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12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 11 is amended  
13 to add a new section as follows:

14 6-17-1119. State contribution for public school employee health  
15 insurance.

16 (a) For the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, the State of  
17 Arkansas shall make a monthly payment to each school district in an amount  
18 equal to one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$157) multiplied by the number of  
19 the district's active participants in the public school employees health  
20 insurance program sponsored by the State and Public School Life and Health  
21 Insurance Board.

22 (b) Beginning July 1, 2006, the State of Arkansas shall make a monthly  
23 payment to each school district in an amount equal to one hundred sixty-eight  
24 dollars (\$168) multiplied by the number of the district's active participants  
25 in the public school employees health insurance program sponsored by the  
26 State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board.

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28 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
29 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the cost of insurance coverage  
30 can be an impediment to teachers pursuing a career in the public school  
31 system; that the state needs to provide better insurance benefits to better  
32 recruit and maintain quality teachers; and that this act will assist the  
33 state in providing a more quality education by increasing its ability to  
34 recruit and maintain quality teachers. Therefore, an emergency is declared  
35 to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the  
36 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.