

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  
4

As Engrossed: H3/3/05

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1559

5 By: Representative Sumpter  
6 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Argue  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9  
10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL  
11 FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH  
12 INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

### Subtitle

14  
15 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STATE AND  
16 LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
17 EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.  
18  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117 is amended to read as follows:  
23 6-17-1117. Health insurance.

24 (a) ~~Beginning on July 1, 2001, local~~ Local school districts shall pay  
25 the health insurance contribution rate of ~~one hundred fourteen dollars (\$114)~~  
26 one hundred and forty-one dollars (\$141) per month for each eligible employee  
27 electing to participate in the public school employee health insurance  
28 program.

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

33 ~~(c) Beginning on October 1, 2004, local school districts shall pay the~~  
34 ~~health insurance contribution rate of one hundred thirty-one dollars (\$131)~~  
35 ~~per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the public~~  
36 ~~school employee health insurance program.~~



1 (b)(1) The Department of Education shall pay the Employee Benefits  
 2 Division of the Department of Finance and Administration sixty-one dollars  
 3 (\$61) per month for each eligible employee of a public school district  
 4 electing to participate in the public school employees' health insurance  
 5 program administered by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance  
 6 Board.

7 (2) The funds provided to the Employee Benefits Division of the  
 8 Department of Finance and Administration under this subsection (b) shall be  
 9 administered by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board  
 10 for the benefit of the employee participants of the public school employees'  
 11 health insurance program.

12  
 13 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the cost of insurance coverage  
 15 can be an impediment to teachers pursuing a career in the public school  
 16 system; that school districts more easily recruit and maintain quality  
 17 teachers if health insurance benefits are improved; and that this act will  
 18 provide such necessary improvements to current benefits coinciding with the  
 19 beginning of the fiscal year and school year. Therefore, an emergency is  
 20 declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the  
 21 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2005.

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 23 /s/ Sumpter  
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