

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 *As Engrossed: H3/3/05 H3/7/05 S3/15/05*

2 85th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL 1559

4

5 By: Representatives Sumpter, Adcock, *Abernathy, Adams, Blair, Blount, Burris, Chesterfield, Davis,*
6 *Elliott, Fite, Flowers, D. Johnson, J. Johnson, Kidd, Ledbetter, W. Lewellen, Mahony, Mathis, Rainey,*
7 *Saunders, Walters, Wills, Wyatt*

8 By: Senators J. Jeffress, Argue

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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*AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE
13 PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE
14 PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

15

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Subtitle

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*AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR
18 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH
19 INSURANCE PROGRAM.*

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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)*~~*(a)* *Beginning on October 1, 2004, local school districts shall pay*
36 *the health insurance contribution rate of one hundred thirty-one dollars*



1 (\$131) per month for each eligible employee electing to participate in the
2 public school employee health insurance program.

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

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

14 (3) In the event that appropriation or funding is not provided, the
15 Department of Education shall not be responsible for the increased payments
16 for the public school employee health insurance program as established by
17 this Act. If funding and appropriation are provided but are inadequate for
18 the total number of employees electing to participate in the public school
19 employee health insurance program, the Department of Education shall pay a
20 proportional share on behalf of each participant. Notwithstanding the special
21 language provision in the appropriation act for the Department of Education
22 granting transfer authority or any other law to the contrary, appropriation
23 and funding provided for the purposes of this Act shall not be transferred by
24 the Department of Education for any other purpose.

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

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36 /s/ Sumpter