1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S3/3/05 A Bill 2 85th General Assembly SENATE BILL 138 Regular Session, 2005 3 4 5 By: Senator Faris 6 7 For An Act To Be Entitled 8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES 9 MAY INCREASE THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE FOR 10 11 HIGHER EDUCATION ALTERNATE RETIREMENT PLANS TO EQUAL THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE UNDER THE 12 13 ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM: AND FOR OTHER 14 PURPOSES. 15 **Subtitle** 16 TO PROVIDE THAT COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES 17 MAY INCREASE THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION 18 RATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ALTERNATE 19 RETIREMENT PLANS TO EQUAL THE EMPLOYER 20 21 CONTRIBUTION RATE UNDER THE ARKANSAS 22 TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM. 23 24 25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS: 26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-7-808 is amended to read as follows: 27 28 24-7-808. Contributions. 29 (a)(1) Any college or university which elects to establish and maintain an alternate retirement plan, and the Arkansas Higher Education 30 Coordinating Board if it so elects, shall contribute to that plan on behalf 31 32 of each staff member who elects to participate in the alternate retirement 33 plan, or employee of the Department of Higher Education, six percent (6%) of his or her total regular compensation during the continuance of his or her 34 35 employment. 36 (2) Each staff member who elects to participate in the alternate

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retirement plan, or department employee, at the discretion of the college or university, shall also contribute thereto six percent (6%) of his or her total regular compensation. (b)(1) The <u>department</u>, college, or university may, at its discretion,

- (b)(1) The <u>department</u>, college, or university may, at its discretion, contribute up to an <u>a minimum of an</u> additional four percent (4%) of the staff member's total regular compensation.
- (2) The department, college, or university may contribute an amount so that the percentage rate in subdivision (a)(1) of this section plus the additional rate equals the total employer contribution rate under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System if the college or university determines that sufficient funds are available to pay that contribution rate.
- (2)(3) Each staff member shall may be required to match that additional contribution by contributing a like percent percentage of his or her total regular compensation as determined by the department, college, or university.
- (c) In addition to the contributions defined in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the department or any college or university which elects to establish and maintain an alternate retirement plan may permit a newly eligible employee who elects to establish and maintain an alternate retirement plan and may permit a newly eligible employee who elects to participate in an alternate retirement plan to make incremental increases in plan contributions to reach the required six percent (6%) minimum contribution level by completion of the fourth year of participation in the alternate plan.
- (d) Payment of contributions authorized by this section shall be made by the disbursing officer of the college or university and by the state official charged with the duty of paying salaries to department employees to the designated companies in accordance with the provisions of this section.

30 /s/ Faris