

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

SENATE BILL 65

By: Senators J. Jeffress, Faris

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
INCREASE IN BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS
STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
INCREASE IN BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES'
RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-5-125 is amended to read as follows:
24-5-125. Eligibility to receive increase in benefits.

(a)(1) In order to help offset the costs of health insurance and health care, any individual who is receiving benefits from the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System prior to, on, or subsequent to July 1, 1999, shall have added to his or her annuity as determined pursuant to § 24-5-115 no less than the sum of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per month, and provided:

(A) The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System may elect and is granted the authority to increase that additional monthly sum to all such eligible individuals in an amount determined by the board as necessary to help offset the ever-escalating costs of health insurance and health care; ~~and~~

(B) Such additional monthly sum shall not exceed two



1 hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per month~~+~~; and

2 (C) The individual who initiates receiving benefits on or
3 after July 1, 2005, has at least five (5) years of service with the system.

4 (2) No benefit enhancement provided by this section shall be
5 implemented if it would cause the publicly supported retirement system's
6 unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities to exceed a thirty-year amortization.

7 (b) The board, in its discretion, may prorate the benefits provided
8 under this section for all individuals retiring after June 30, 1999, if the
9 individual is also eligible for an additional monthly benefit as a result of
10 credited service under one (1) or more of the other reciprocal systems, as
11 such systems are enumerated in § 24-2-401.

12 (c) Nothing contained in this section shall require the system to pay
13 any portion of the benefits provided for in this section.

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15 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
16 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that due to the ever escalating
17 costs of health insurance and health care, benefits provided under the
18 Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System are inadequate and that
19 an increase should be provided as soon as practicable in order to avoid an
20 undue hardship. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
21 being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety
22 shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2005.