

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 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

As Engrossed: S3/5/07  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1479

5 By: Representative Wagner  
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS  
10 OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
11 DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH INSURANCE  
15 BENEFITS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF  
16 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117(c), concerning health insurance  
22 benefits for public school employees, is amended to read as follows:

23 (c)(1) A school district shall:

24 (A) Provide the same employer-provided health insurance  
25 benefits for all full-time school district employees; and

26 (B) Pay the same employer contribution rate for each  
27 eligible employee electing to participate in the public school employees'  
28 health insurance program.

29 (2) If a school district entered into a contract with a  
30 superintendent, teacher, or other personnel prior to April 11, 2006, and the  
31 contract provides for a higher employer contribution rate than is paid for a  
32 majority of the certified personnel in the district, then the district may  
33 continue to pay the higher contribution rate as provided under the existing  
34 contract but not under extensions, addendums, or new contracts created after  
35 April 11, 2006, without increasing all other employees to the same rate.

36 (3) Any school district that entered into contracts with classified



1 personnel prior to the effective date of this act and the contracts provided  
2 for a higher employer contribution funding amount than is paid for certified  
3 personnel in the school district shall freeze the employer contribution  
4 funding amount for classified employees until such time as the funding amount  
5 contributed for certified personnel equals or exceeds the funding amount  
6 provided for classified employees.

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8 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
9 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that classified employees in public  
10 school districts who receive higher employer contribution rates than  
11 certified employees of the school district may suffer an unintended reduction  
12 in the employer contributions for their public school employees' health  
13 insurance benefits under the application of current law; that this act  
14 remedies the unintended consequence of prior law and protects the employer  
15 contribution rate for those classified employees until a higher rate is paid  
16 to certified employees; and that this act is immediately necessary to  
17 establish the earliest possible date for the protection of these benefits.  
18 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately  
19 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall  
20 become effective on:

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

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

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

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28 /s/ Wagner  
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