

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: H3/23/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2260

5 By: Representative Chesterfield
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE BONUSES FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED
10 PARAPROFESSIONALS WHO OBTAIN ASSOCIATE DEGREES OR
11 COMPLETE SIXTY (60) HOURS OF COURSE WORK AT AN
12 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 TO PROVIDE BONUSES FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED
16 PARAPROFESSIONALS WHO OBTAIN ASSOCIATE
17 DEGREES OR COMPLETE SIXTY (60) HOURS OF
18 COURSE WORK AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION.
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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 Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 22 is amended*
26 *to add an additional section to read as follows:*

27 *6-17-2206. Highly qualified paraprofessional bonuses.*

28 *(a)(1) The purpose of this section is to provide a bonus from the*
29 *Department of Education in recognition of the efforts made by*
30 *paraprofessional employees who attain highly qualified status.*

31 *(2) A person who is eligible for a bonus under this section may*
32 *receive a bonus under subsection (b) or (c) but shall not receive a bonus*
33 *under both sections.*

34 *(3) The bonuses under this section are contingent upon the*
35 *appropriation and availability of funding.*

36 *(b) A paraprofessional who is under a contract of employment with a*



1 public school district or education service cooperative as a paraprofessional
2 employee on May 1, 2007, and who holds an associate degree or higher degree
3 shall be considered a highly qualified paraprofessional and shall receive a
4 one-time bonus of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

5 (c) A paraprofessional who is under a contract of employment with a
6 public school district or education service cooperative as a paraprofessional
7 employee on May 1, 2007, shall be considered a highly qualified
8 paraprofessional and shall receive a one-time bonus of five hundred dollars
9 (\$500) if he or she has:

10 (1) Completed sixty (60) hours of coursework at an institution
11 of higher education; or

12 (2) Passed the high-stakes test for highly qualified status.

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14 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
15 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that paraprofessionals are
16 important to the delivery of educational services to students in the state;
17 that the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires all paraprofessionals who
18 provide instructional support and who work in a program supported with Title
19 I, Part A funds to meet certain federal qualification requirements to achieve
20 highly qualified paraprofessional status; that this act is immediately
21 necessary to authorize the Department of Education to provide bonuses for all
22 paraprofessional employees who have attained the highly qualified status.
23 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
24 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
25 become effective on:

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

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

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

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33 /s/ Chesterfield
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