1 State of Arkansas   *As Engrossed: H2/5/09*

2 87th General Assembly   A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2009   HOUSE BILL 1169

4

5 By: Representatives Cook, *Betts, Blount, T. Bradford, Breedlove, M. Burris, J. Dickinson, J. Edwards,*

6 *Nickels, Nix, Perry, J. Roebuck, Stewart, Wagner*

7

8

9   **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10   AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR

11   HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS UNDER THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

12   EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR

13   OTHER PURPOSES.

14

15   **Subtitle**

16   AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL

17   CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE

18   PREMIUMS UNDER THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

19   EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

20

21

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

23

24   SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1117(a) and (b), concerning

25 contributions to health insurance premiums of public school employees, are

26 amended to read as follows:

27   (a)(1) ~~Beginning on October 1, 2004, local~~ Each public school

28 ~~districts~~ district shall pay the health insurance contribution rate of one

29 hundred thirty-one dollars ($131) per month for each eligible employee

30 electing to participate in the public school employees' health insurance

31 program administered by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance

32 Board.

33   (2) To the extent an appropriation and funding are available for

34 this purpose, the Department of Education shall pay to the Employee Benefits

35 Division of the Department of Finance and Administration employer

36 contributions in the amount required under this subdivision (a) for each

1   participating employee of an educational service cooperative, secondary area

2   vocational center, and the Arkansas Correctional School.

3   (b)(1)(A)   ~~The~~ Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall pay

4   to the ~~Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Finance and~~

5   ~~Administration a minimum of sixty-one dollars ($61.00) per month for each~~

6   ~~eligible employee electing to participate in the public school employees'~~

7   ~~health insurance program administered by the State and Public School Life and~~

8   ~~Health Insurance Board~~ division the full amount of an appropriation and

9   funding for the purpose of making contributions to health insurance premiums

10 for public school employees that are in addition to the employer

11 contributions under subsection (a) of this section.

12   (B)   The Department of Education shall make the total

13 contributions under subdivision (a)(2) and subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this

14 section by transferring ~~thirty-five million dollars ($35,000,000)~~ the funding

15 to the division in eleven (11) equal monthly installments.

16   (2)   The board shall administer the funds provided to the

17 division under subdivisions (a)(1) and (b)(1) of this section ~~subsection~~

18 ~~shall be administered by the board~~ for the benefit of the employee

19 participants of the public school employees' health insurance program.

20   (3)~~(A)~~   ~~In the event that~~ If an appropriation or funding is not

21 provided for the contributions under subdivision (a)(2) or (b)(1) of this

22 section, the ~~department~~ ~~shall not be~~ Department of Education is not

23 responsible for the ~~increased payments~~ contributions under the unfunded

24 subdivision for the public school employees' health insurance program ~~as~~

25 ~~established by this section.~~

26   ~~(B)   If funding and appropriation are provided but are~~

27 ~~inadequate for the total number of employees electing to participate in the~~

28 ~~public school employees' health insurance program, the department shall pay a~~

29 ~~proportional share on behalf of each participant.~~

30   ~~(C)   If funding and appropriation are provided and exceed~~

31 ~~the amount needed to make the minimum contribution under subdivision~~

32 ~~(b)(1)(A) of this section, the department shall pay a proportional share of~~

33 ~~the excess on behalf of each participant.~~

34

35   */s/ Cook*

36