1 2	State of Arkansas 88th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2011		HOUSE BILL 1212
4			
5	By: Representative Carnine		
6			
7		For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO	O PROVIDE THAT THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT	SHALL
9	BE USED	FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT IN T	HE
10	ARKANSAS	TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO SIMPLIFY	
11	ACCOUNTI	NG PROCEDURES BY ALLOWING EXISTING SERV	ICE
12	PURCHASE	ACCOUNTS AT THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIR	EMENT
13	SYSTEM TO	O BE PAID WITHIN A TIME CERTAIN; TO DEC	LARE
14	AN EMERG	ENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	
15			
16			
17		Subtitle	
18	ТО	PROVIDE THAT THE ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT	
19	SHA	LL BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE	
20	CRE	DIT; THAT EXISTING SERVICE PURCHASE	
21	ACC	OUNTS BE PAID; TO DECLARE AN	
22	EME	RGENCY.	
23			
24			
25	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKAN	SAS:
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27	SECTION 1. Ar	kansas Code § 24-1-107(b)(1) concerning	recognition of
28	federal retirement p	rograms, is amended to read as follows:	
29	(b)(1) <u>(A)</u> An a	active member of the Arkansas Public Em	ployees'
30	Retirement System or	the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System	shall receive
31	credit for the member	r's federal service upon the payment of	the employee and
32	employer contribution	ns prescribed by the Board of Trustees	of the Arkansas
33	Public Employees' Re	tirement System and the Board of Truste	e s of the Arkansas
34	Teacher Retirement S	ystem together with interest from the d	ate the federal
35	service began to the	date of payment.	
36	(В) An active member of the Arkansas Tea	cher Retirement



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1	System shall receive credit for the member's federal service upon the payment
2	of the cost of service under § 24-7-502(b) and as prescribed by the Board of
3	Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.
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5	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-2-502(b), concerning purchased credited
6	service in a state-supported retirement system, is amended to read as
7	follows:
8	(b) The benefit program to be applicable to the credited service for
9	members of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System <u>, or</u> the State
10	Police Retirement System, or the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System shall be:
11	(1) The benefit program of § 24-4-101 et seq. for members of the
12	Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System; or
13	(2) The benefit program based on § 24-6-101 et seq. for members
14	of the State Police Retirement System . ; or
15	(3) The benefit program based on § 24-7-101 et seq. for members
16	of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.
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18	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 24-7-202(4), regarding the definition of
19	"actuarial equivalent, is amended to read as follows:
20	(4) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal reserve
21	value when reserve is the present value of all payment to be made on account
22	of any benefit based upon such reasonable rate of interest and table of
23	experience as a plan shall adopt from time to time.
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25	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 24-7-202, regarding definitions used in the
26	Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Act, is amended to add a definition to
27	read as follows:
28	(37)(A) "Service purchase account" means an account established
29	by a member with the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to allow the member
30	to buy service credit in the system as allowed under this subchapter.
31	(B) "Service purchase account" does not include an account
32	established by the system to allow a member to make payments on unreported or
33	incorrectly reported contributory service credit that is not resolved through
34	<u>a release process.</u>
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36	SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(b)(4)(B) and (C), concerning a

1 member's election to pay contributions to the system, are amended to read as 2 follows:

3 (b)(4)(B) If the election is made before July 1, 1984, the member must 4 shall contribute to the system Arkansas Teacher Retirement System the 5 difference between full salary member contributions and member contributions 6 based on seven thousand eight hundred dollars (\$7,800) annual covered salary 7 retroactive to July 1, 1969, or to the actual date of employment, whichever 8 is later, plus interest from the dates the added contributions would normally 9 have been received by the system to the date of the actual added 10 contributions by paying the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits to 11 the system. 12 (C) If the election is made July 1, 1984, or later, the 13 member must shall contribute to the system both the added member 14 contributions and the added employer contributions that would have been paid 15 to the system had if the member's full salary always had been covered, plus 16 interest from the dates the added contributions would normally have been 17 received by the system to the date of the actual added contributions. by 18 paying the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits to the system. 19 20 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(c)(1)(B), concerning the system's 21 right to collect from the employee and the employer unreported required 22 service, is amended to read as follows: 23 (c)(l)(B)(i) Should Before July 1, 2011, if the employer fail fails at 24 any time to report the salary required service of a member and remit the 25 contributions to the system, the system shall have the right to collect from 26 the employee and the employer the contributions due, if any, from each, 27 together with interest beginning with the subsequent fiscal year if the 28 unreported service is within the look-back period under § 24-7-205. 29 (ii) If the unreported service is not within the 30 look-back period, the unreported required service shall be considered an optional purchase of service and the actuarial equivalent of the member's 31 benefits due to the system shall be required by the member. 32 33 (iii) A member shall not be given credit for

34 service rendered until all contributions and interest due from each are 35 <u>service is</u> paid in full.

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01-24-2011 08:44:42 SAG093

HB1212

1 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(d)(1), concerning a member's right 2 to repay to the system the amounts the member received in a refund of 3 contributions, is amended to read as follows: 4 (d)(1) In addition to the contributions deducted from the salaries of 5 a member, as provided in this section, a member may deposit into the system, 6 by a single contribution or by an increased rate of contributions as approved 7 by the board, the amounts the member received in a refund of contributions 8 and not repaid, together with interest from the date of withdrawal to the 9 date of repayment to reestablish credit for refunded service restore 10 contributory, noncontributory, and any other service credit forfeited in a 11 member termination refund by paying the actuarial equivalent of the member's 12 benefits. 13 14 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(e)(3)(A)(ii), concerning a 15 member's contributions, is amended to read as follows: 16 (e)(3)(A)(ii) Beginning July 1, 1999, an active member who has 17 previously elected to eliminate member contributions may change credited 18 service on which no member contributions have been paid to member 19 contributions contributory credited service by paying the additional member 20 contributions due plus interest from the dates the contributions would have 21 been received by the system to the date of the payment in full the actuarial 22 equivalent of the member's benefits to the system. 23 24 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(f)(2), concerning a member's right 25 to establish contributory service credit for all or part of his or her 26 service that is cancelled by the system, is amended to read as follows: 27 (f)(2) If such an employee becomes an active member of the 28 contributory plan of this system, he or she may establish contributory 29 service credit for all or part of his or her service that is cancelled by the 30 system by paying both the employee and employer contributions required by 31 this system plus interest the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits 32 to the system. 33 34 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 24-7-406(g)(1)(B), concerning a member's 35 election to purchase past service credits through a service purchase

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36 contract, is amended to read as follows:

1	(g)(l)(B) If For service purchase accounts established before July 1,
2	2011 that have an irrevocable payroll authorization established before July
3	1, 2012, or for accounts established by the system to allow a member to make
4	payments on unreported or incorrectly reported contributory service, a member
5	elects may elect to purchase establish past service credits under the
6	system's purchase of service credit provisions through payroll deductions,
7	and the employer shall pay the amount required to purchase establish such the
8	past service credits from the employee's salary earned after the employee
9	signs an irrevocable payroll authorization prescribed by the board, and those
10	purchases payments shall then be treated as employer contributions in
11	determining tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code, as it existed on
12	January 1, 2011, and the Income Tax act of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq.
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14	SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 24-7-501(b)(4), concerning the repayment
15	of benefits for a member who rescinds his or her exclusion from membership in
16	the system, is amended to read as follows:
17	(b)(4) <u>(A) For Before July 1, 2011, for the membership</u> to be
18	retroactive, the member must <u>shall</u> pay to the system both the member
19	contributions and the employer contributions that would have been paid to the
20	system had there if there had been no exclusion, plus interest from the
21	effective date of the excluded service to the date of payment in full.
22	(B) On or after July 1, 2011, excluded service may be
23	established by paying the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits to
24	the system.
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26	SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 24-7-502(b)(4), concerning a member's
27	repayment to the system of unreported service, is amended to read as follows:
28	(b)(4)(A) <u>Before July 1, 2011, an</u> An active member shall receive
29	credit for any previous unreported service after July 1, 1937, upon by paying
30	heta the system the member employee and employer contributions in effect during
31	the previous service, together with interest from the dates of the service to
32	the date of payment in full.
33	(B) On or after July 1, 2011, previous unreported service
34	rendered after July 1, 1937, may be established by paying the actuarial
35	equivalent of the member's benefits to the system.
36	(B)(C) For previous service rendered before July 1, 1971,

1	service credit shall be permitted for service in a fiscal school year only if
2	at least one hundred twenty (120) <u>one hundred sixty (160) d</u> ays of service
3	were rendered in the fiscal school year.
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5	SECTION 13. Arkansas Code Title 24, Chapter 7, Subchapter 6 is amended
6	to add a section to read as follows:
7	24-7-612. Service credit purchase.
8	(a) A member who purchases service credit in the Arkansas Teacher
9	Retirement System shall pay the actuarial equivalent of the both the employee
10	and employer contributions, as calculated by the system.
11	(b)(1) If a member has an existing service purchase account with the
12	system before July 1, 2011, the member shall pay the balance of the account
13	to the system according to the payment schedule agreed upon by the member and
14	the system.
15	(2) The member shall agree to a reasonable payment schedule with
16	the system on or before June 30, 2012, or the member payments, if any, shall
17	be returned to the member by the system without interest on the member
18	payments as allowed by law.
19	(3) The service purchase account shall be closed after the
20	system has returned the member payments.
21	(c) Beginning July 1, 2011, service purchase accounts shall not be
22	created for the purchase of service credit in the system.
23	(d) The Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
24	may promulgate rules regarding service purchase accounts consistent with this
25	section.
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27	SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 24-7-602(a)(1), concerning military
28	service credit, is amended to read as follows:
29	berviee eredit, is amended to read as forrows.
	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
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30 31	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System enters the armed forces of the United States during any period of compulsory
31	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System enters the armed forces of the United States during any period of compulsory military service, after receiving a refund of member contributions from the
31 32	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System enters the armed forces of the United States during any period of compulsory military service, after receiving a refund of member contributions from the system, the compulsory military service required of the member may be
31 32 33	(a)(1) If an active member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System enters the armed forces of the United States during any period of compulsory military service, after receiving a refund of member contributions from the system, the compulsory military service required of the member may be established as credited service under this subchapter if after discharge from

equivalent of the member's benefits.

2 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 24-7-602(c), concerning payment by a 3 4 member for military service credit, is amended to read as follows: 5 (c) If mandated by federal law prior to before December 12, 1994, 6 armed service not otherwise creditable under the provisions of this section 7 shall be creditable, provided the member pays both the employee and employer 8 contributions required by the system, plus interest from the date of 9 discharge from active duty until paid in full to the system the actuarial 10 equivalent of the member's benefits. 11 12 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 24-7-603(c), concerning the purchase of 13 credit for out-of-state service into the system, is amended to read as 14 follows: 15 From and after July 1, 1987, an active member shall be eligible to (c) 16 purchase establish out-of-state service to be credited as service under this 17 subchapter in accordance with under the following conditions: 18 (1)(A) The out-of-state service credit to be granted shall be 19 limited to service for which no benefit could be paid by another system 20 similar in purpose to this system, except social security, if the member had 21 left on deposit his or her contributions to the other system. 22 (B) The credit under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section 23 is limited to fifteen (15) years; (2)(A)(i) The member shall pay to the system for each year of 24 25 service credit being granted + the actuarial equivalent of the member's 26 benefits. 27 (a) The product of the sum of the employee and employer contribution rates in effect at the time of purchase multiplied by 28 29 the greater of: 30 (1) The annual salary received by the member for his or her first full year of credited service that precedes the 31 32 fiscal year in which the service is purchased; or 33 (2) The average of the three (3) highest salaries earned at the time of purchase; plus 34 35 (b) Interest from the end of that year of 36 credited service to the date of payment in full.

1 (ii) If the payment is not made in a single sum at 2 the time of purchase, interest shall be added from the date of the initial 3 payment to the date of payment in full. 4 (B) The payment shall be credited to the member's account 5 in the members' deposit account and shall be in addition to regular member 6 contributions thereto; 7 (3)(A) The out-of-state service shall not become credited 8 service under this system until: 9 (A) The member payments specified in subdivision (c)(2) of 10 this Section have been paid in full; and 11 (B)(i) The the member has established five (5) or more 12 years of actual service. 13 (ii) (B) Should a member cease If a member ceases to 14 be an active member before the out-of-state service has been established as 15 system-credited service, the member payments contributed as specified in 16 subdivision (c)(2) of made under this section shall be refundable; 17 (4) The benefit program to be applied to each year of service 18 credit being granted shall be the benefit program in effect at the time of 19 retirement; and 20 Such other rules and regulations consistent with this (5) 21 subchapter as the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System 22 may from time to time adopt. 23 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 24-7-604(b) and (c) concerning a member's 24 25 purchase of overseas service credit in the system, are amended to read as 26 follows: 27 (b) A member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System may receive 28 membership service credit for service in an overseas school subject to the 29 following conditions: 30 (1) To be eligible for overseas service credit, a member must 31 have a minimum of five (5) years of membership service in a position covered 32 by the system; 33 (2)(A) The overseas service credit to be granted shall be limited to service for which no benefit could be paid by another system 34 35 similar in purpose to this system, except social security. 36 (B) The maximum overseas service credited to any member

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1 shall be ten (10) years;

2 (3) To be eligible for a year of overseas service credit, a 3 member must have rendered at least one hundred twenty (120) one hundred sixty 4 (160) days of service. Fractions of years of service may be credited in 5 keeping with policies of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher 6 Retirement System as provided by § 24-7-601; (4)(A) Contributions must be paid on the later of the member's 7 8 salary in the overseas school or the annual salary received by him for the 9 first full year of state teaching service preceding the fiscal year in which 10 service is purchased Overseas service credit may be established by paying to 11 the system the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits. 12 (B)(i) The member shall pay the member contribution rate. 13 (ii)(a) Employer contributions The employer's cost-14 of-service credit may be paid either by the employer or by the member. 15 (b) For each year of the member's service 16 overseas, employer contributions shall be based upon the employer 17 contribution rate in effect for that year, provided employer contributions are paid in the year in which the service is rendered. If the employer 18 19 contributions are not paid when service is rendered, the employer contributions shall be based on the rate in effect in the year preceding the 20 21 fiscal year in which the service is purchased. 22 (c) If contributions were not paid to the system promptly, as service was rendered, interest shall be added from the date of 23 purchase to the date of payment in full. 24 25 26 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 24-7-606(c), regarding payment of service credit in the system for leave of absence to obtain advanced degree, is 27 28 amended to read as follows: 29 (c) The member shall pay the actuarial equivalent of the member's 30 benefits to the system for each year of service credit being granted +. 31 (1) The product of the sum of the employee and employer 32 contribution rates in effect at the time of purchase multiplied by the 33 greater of: 34 (A) The annual salary received by the member for his or 35 her first full year of credited service that precedes the fiscal year in which the service is purchased; or 36

1 (B) The average of the three (3) highest salaries earned 2 at the time of purchase; plus 3 (2) Interest from the end of that year of credited service to 4 the date of payment in full. 5 6 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 24-7-607(b), concerning the purchase by a 7 member of private school service in the system, is amended to read as 8 follows: 9 (b) From and after January 1, 1990, an active member shall be eligible, upon application, to purchase private school service for a period 10 not to exceed fifteen (15) years, to be credited as service under this 11 12 subchapter in accordance with under the following conditions: 13 (1) The private school service credit to be granted shall be 14 limited to service for which no benefit could be paid by another system 15 similar in purpose to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, except social 16 security, if the member left on deposit his or her contributions to the other 17 system and it shall be limited to fifteen (15) years; 18 (2)(A) The member shall pay the actuarial equivalent of benefits 19 as set forth under § 24-7-202 to the system for each year of service credit 20 being granted+. 21 (i) The product of the sum of the employee and 22 employer contribution rates in effect at the time of purchase multiplied by 23 the greater of: (a) The annual salary received by the member 24 25 for his or her first full year of credited service that precedes the fiscal year in which the service is purchased; or 26 27 (b) The average of the three (3) highest 28 salaries earned at the time of purchase; plus (ii) Interest from the end of that year of credited 29 30 service to the date of payment in full. (B) If the payment is not made in a single sum at the time 31 32 of purchase, interest shall be added from the date of the initial payment to 33 the date of payment in full. 34 (C)(B) The payment shall be credited to the member's 35 account in the members' deposit account and shall be in addition to regular 36 member contributions thereto;

1 (3) The private school service shall not become credited service 2 under this system until: 3 (A) The member payments payment specified in subdivision 4 (b)(2) of under this section have has been paid in full; and 5 (B)(i) The member has established five (5) or more years 6 of actual service exclusive of private school service. 7 (ii) should a member cease If a member ceases to be 8 an active member before the private school service has been established as 9 system-credited service, the member payments contributed as specified in 10 subdivision (b)(2) of under this section shall be refundable refunded to the 11 member; 12 (4) The benefit program to be applied to each year of service 13 credit being granted shall be the benefit program in effect at the time of 14 retirement; and 15 (5) Such other rules and regulations consistent with this 16 subchapter as the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System 17 may from time to time adopt. 18 19 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 24-7-610(a). concerning a member's 20 purchase of Arkansas National Guard service credit in the system, is amended 21 to read as follows: 22 (a)(1) Any member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System shall be 23 entitled to purchase credited service in the system for a period not to 24 exceed five (5) years for service rendered by the member in the Arkansas 25 National Guard if the member: 26 (A) Makes an application to the Board of Trustees of the 27 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System; 28 (B) Provides proof satisfactory to the board of that 29 person's service in the Arkansas National Guard; and 30 (C) Pays to the system for each year of service credit 31 being granted+ the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits. 32 (i) The product of the sum of the employee and 33 employer contribution rates in effect at the time of purchase multiplied by 34 the greater of: 35 (a) The annual salary received by the member 36 for his or her first full year of credited service that precedes the fiscal

11

01-24-2011 08:44:42 SAG093

HB1212

year in which the service is purchased; or 1 (b) The average of the three (3) highest 2 3 salaries earned at the time of purchase; plus 4 (ii) Interest from the end of that year of credited 5 service to the date of payment in full. (2) If the payment for service under this section is not made in 6 7 a single lump sum payment, interest shall accrue from the date of the initial 8 payment to the date of the payment in full. 9 (3) (2) The payment shall be credited to the member's account in 10 the members' deposit account and shall be in addition to regular member 11 contributions. 12 13 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 24-7-611(b)(2) and (3), concerning a 14 member's purchase of domestic federal service in the system, are amended to read as follows: 15 16 (2)(A) For each year of domestic federal service credit granted, 17 the member shall pay to the system the employee and employer contributions 18 based on: the actuarial equivalent of the member's benefits. 19 (i) The greater of: 20 (a) The annual salary received by the 21 member for the member's first full year of credited service that precedes the 22 fiscal year in which the service is purchased; or 23 (b) The average of the three (3) highest 24 salaries earned at the time of purchase; and 25 (ii) Interest from the end of that year of credited 26 service to the date of payment in full. 27 (B) The contribution rate is the rate in effect at the 28 time of purchase. 29 (C) If the payment for service under this section is not made in a single lump-sum payment, interest shall accrue from the date of the 30 31 initial payment to the date of the payment in full. 32 (D) (B) The payment is credited to the member's account in 33 the members' deposit account and is in addition to regular member 34 contributions; The domestic federal service shall not become credited 35 (3) service under this system until: 36

1 (A) The member payments payment specified in subdivision 2 (b)(2) of under this section have has been paid in full; and (B)(i) The member has established five (5) or more years 3 4 of actual service exclusive of domestic federal service. 5 (ii) should a member cease If a member ceases to be 6 an active member before the domestic federal service has been established as 7 system-credited service, the member payments contributed as specified in 8 subdivision (b)(2) of under this section shall be refundable refunded to the 9 member; 10 11 SECTION 22. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the 12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that certain provisions of the 13 Arkansas Teacher Retirement System statutes are in urgent need of revision to bring them into conformance with sound public pension policy; that this 14 revision is of great importance to members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement 15 16 System and to other citizens of the State of Arkansas; that a member's 17 purchase of service credit currently provides that a member pay the system yesterday's dollars for the value of today's benefits; that such a valuation 18 19 is unfair to the members as a whole and inconsistent with the prudent 20 management of the system's funds and obligations; that the purchase of 21 service credit in the system should be based upon actuarial equivalents; that 22 the purchase of service credit should be paid in a lump sum to the system; 23 that current service purchase accounts remain unpaid and inactive for many years at a time and create an administrative burden and accounting difficulty 24 25 on the system that can be remedied by the passage of this act; and that this 26 act is necessary in order to maintain an orderly system of benefits for the 27 members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the 28 29 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on July 1, 2011. 30 31 32 33 34 35 36