

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1257

5 By: Representatives Achor, L. Johnson, Vaught, Wardlaw, Tosh  
6 By: Senators K. Hammer, Stone  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE  
10 STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE  
11 PROGRAM TO CERTAIN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY POLICE  
12 OFFICERS; TO AMEND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF  
13 CERTAIN RETIREES UNDER THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
14 LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER  
15 PURPOSES.  
16  
17

## Subtitle

18  
19 TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER  
20 THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND  
21 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN  
22 MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS; AND  
23 TO AMEND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF  
24 CERTAIN RETIREES.  
25  
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-5-407, concerning definitions used under  
30 the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, is amended to  
31 add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

32 (20) "County" means any county in this state;

33 (21) "Eligible police officer retiree" means a police officer

34 who is:

35 (A) Employed as a police officer;

36 (B) Eligible to retire with full retirement benefits



1 under:

2 (i) The Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement  
 3 System under § 24-10-101 et seq.;

4 (ii) Any municipal or county retirement benefit  
 5 system or plan for employees;

6 (iii) Any local policemen's pension and relief fund  
 7 under § 24-11-101 et seq.; or

8 (iv) The Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement  
 9 System under § 24-4-101 et seq.; and

10 (C) Is not eligible for Medicare enrollment;

11 (22) "Municipality" means:

12 (A) A city of the first class;

13 (B) A city of the second class; or

14 (C) An incorporated town; and

15 (23) "Police officer" means:

16 (A) Any law enforcement officer engaged in official duty  
 17 who is a member of any regular or auxiliary police force of a municipality or  
 18 county on a full-time or part-time basis;

19 (B) A sheriff or deputy sheriff of a county who is engaged  
 20 in official duty; or

21 (C) A constable or night marshal of a municipality engaged  
 22 in official duty.

23  
 24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-5-411(a)(1) concerning the eligibility  
 25 of state employee retirees and public school retirees under the State and  
 26 Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, is amended to read as  
 27 follows:

28 (a)(1) ~~State~~ Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section,  
 29 state employee retirees and public school employee retirees are qualified to  
 30 enroll in the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program as  
 31 retirees if they:

32 (A) Have participated in the program for at least five (5)  
 33 cumulative years before retirement as participating members of:

34 (i) The Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement  
 35 System, including the members of the legislative division and the contract  
 36 personnel of the Arkansas National Guard;

- 1 (ii) The Arkansas Teacher Retirement System;
- 2 (iii) The Arkansas State Highway Employees'
- 3 Retirement System;
- 4 (iv) The Arkansas Judicial Retirement System; or
- 5 (v) An alternate retirement plan of a qualifying
- 6 institution under § 24-7-801; and

7 (B) Are retired and drawing benefits under one (1) or more  
 8 of the retirement systems listed under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.

9  
 10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 21-5-411, concerning the eligibility of  
 11 certain retirees under the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance  
 12 Program, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

13 (f)(1)(A) An eligible police officer retiree may elect to enroll in  
 14 the program.

15 (B) The eligible police officer retiree is eligible under  
 16 subdivision (f)(1)(A) of this section until the eligible police officer  
 17 retiree is a Medicare-eligible person.

18 (2) An eligible police officer retiree may elect to participate  
 19 in the program and shall have a guaranteed issue period of sixty (60)  
 20 calendar days from the date of retirement to enroll in the program.

21 (3) An eligible police officer retiree who elects to participate  
 22 in the program shall pay a premium as determined by the board or the cost of  
 23 the policy issued to the eligible police officer retiree.

24 (4) The eligible police officer retiree portion of the premium  
 25 shall be deducted from a bank account of the eligible police officer retiree  
 26 participant, to be paid by a monthly bank draft on the date designated by the  
 27 division.

28 (5) An eligible police officer retiree is not required to have  
 29 participated in the program for five (5) years before retirement to be  
 30 eligible to participate in the program.

31  
 32 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. RETROACTIVITY. An eligible police officer  
 33 who retired between January 1, 2017, and the effective date of this act shall  
 34 have a guaranteed issue period of ninety (90) days.