

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 193

By: Senator E. Cheatham

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE SERVICE CREDIT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROVIDE SERVICE CREDIT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Ark. Code Ann. § 24-7-601(c)(2), concerning credited service generally in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) Days Except as provided under subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section, days of paid sick leave shall not be considered service if the payment is for unused sick leave.

(B) If a member dies during active service on or after July 1, 2013, the member's accrued unused sick leave, whether paid or unpaid, shall be credited as service in the fiscal year of the member's death to determine the member's retirement eligibility, final average salary, and eligibility for other system benefits. The member's account shall be credited with:

(i) One (1) day of service for each day of accrued unused sick leave; and



(ii) One (1) day of service for any remaining partial day of sick leave.

(C) If a member dies during active service on or after July 1, 2013, the member's unused catastrophic leave and unused donated leave shall not be credited as service.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the operations of a state public retirement system are complex; that the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System must be able to meet the needs of its members as anticipated by the General Assembly; that certain provisions of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Act are imminently in need of revision and updating in order to bring them into conformance with sound public pension policy and actuarial requirements; that such revision and updating is of a great importance to members of the system and to other citizens of the State of Arkansas; that the system needs the ability to make immediate changes to maintain and improve its actuarial status; and that this act is immediately necessary in order to maintain an orderly system of benefits for the members of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public, peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date it is approved by the Governor;

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

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

APPROVED: 02/17/2017