

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2022

A Bill

SENATE BILL 88

By: Senators Rice, Hickey, Irvin, Beckham, L. Chesterfield, J. Dismang, Elliott, J. English, Flippo, Gilmore, Hill, K. Ingram, B. Johnson, G. Leding, B. Sample, D. Sullivan

By: Representatives M. Berry, Shepherd, Eubanks, Wardlaw, Beaty Jr., Beck, S. Berry, Bragg, Brown, C. Cooper, Crawford, Dalby, M. Davis, Dotson, Ennett, K. Ferguson, C. Fite, D. Garner, Godfrey, Hawks, M. Hodges, Hollowell, Hudson, Jett, Love, Maddox, McCullough, S. Meeks, Nicks, Perry, Scott, S. Smith, Speaks, Vaught, Warren, D. Whitaker, Wing, Wooten

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE STATE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM;
TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO MODIFY THE STATE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-5-414(b), concerning state contributions to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program and partial state contribution of employee premiums, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Participating entities shall make a monthly contribution equal to the number of budgeted state employee positions multiplied by the monthly contribution authorized by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, ~~not to exceed five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) monthly~~ for each state employee budgeted position into a fund designated for state employee health benefits to partially defray the cost of life and health benefits for state employees and retirees participating in the program.



SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program is inadequate to provide sustainable affordable health benefits for public school employees and state employees; that an urgent need exists to address the state's funding and administration of benefits for public school employees and state employees in order for the program to remain viable and to avoid severe financial hardship to plan participants; and that this act is immediately necessary to provide affordable health benefit options in a timely manner to the state's public school employees participating in the program and state employees participating in the program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval 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: 3/1/22