

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/9/23  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1447

By: Representatives J. Mayberry, *Scott*

By: Senator K. Hammer

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES; TO AMEND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH SCHOOL NURSES ARE COMPENSATED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO AMEND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH SCHOOL NURSES ARE COMPENSATED.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2202(1)(B), concerning the definition of "classified employee", is amended to read as follows:

- (B) "Classified employee" does not include a ~~nonlicensed~~:
- (i) Nonlicensed teacher; or
  - (ii) School nurse; and

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-17-122. School nurses – Compensation.

(a) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a licensed nurse engaging in school nursing activities.

(b) Each school district board of directors shall:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, pay school nurses a minimum base salary that is at least equal to the minimum base salary required for classroom teachers by § 6-17-2403; and

(2) Adopt a school nurse salary schedule that incorporates the



same or similar factors and steps as those used to establish and incorporated in the public school district's employee salary schedule required by § 6-17-2403.

(c)(1)(A) For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter, each public school district shall have in place for a school nurse employed by the public school district a minimum base salary and school nurse salary schedule that meet the requirements of this section.

(B) The salary schedule for school nurses required under this section shall be prorated based on a basic contract for teachers of one hundred ninety (190) days as established under § 6-17-2402.

(2)(A) A school nurse who holds a bachelor's degree and who has zero (0) years of experience shall receive the same base salary for the respective school year as that received by a classroom teacher who is employed by the same public school district in which the school nurse is employed and who has zero (0) years of experience and a bachelor's degree.

(B) A school nurse shall have his or her base salary adjusted according to the factors considered in the salary schedule adopted by the public school district in which the school nurse is employed.

(3) A school nurse shall receive at least ninety percent (90%) of the base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same or similar levels of education, experience, and other factors considered by a public school district in its school nurse salary schedule and employee salary schedule if the school nurse:

(A) Does not hold a bachelor's degree; and

(B) Is a registered nurse.

(4) A school nurse shall receive at least eighty percent (80%) of the base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same or similar levels of education, experience, and other factors considered by a public school district in its school nurse salary schedule and employee salary schedule if the school nurse:

(A) Does not hold a bachelor's degree; and

(B) Is a licensed practical nurse.

(d) A public school district shall not lower the current salary of a school nurse who is currently:

(1) Employed by the public school district; and

(2) Earning a rate of pay that is higher than the salary

schedule required by this section.

*/s/J. Mayberry*