

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1803

By: Representative J. Mayberry

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROPOSED REFERRED ACT 1 OF 1994, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ARKANSAS SOFT DRINK TAX PROPOSED REFERRED ACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE SOFT DRINK TAX REVENUES TO BE USED FOR SALARIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROPOSED REFERRED ACT 1 OF 1994, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ARKANSAS SOFT DRINK TAX PROPOSED REFERRED ACT; AND TO AUTHORIZE SOFT DRINK TAX REVENUES TO BE USED FOR SALARIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1158. School Nurse Salary Trust Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a trust fund to be known as the "School Nurse Salary Trust Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of:

(1) Grants, donations, or transfers made by any person or government agency or office;

(2) Any remaining balances in the fund carried forward from year to year;

(3) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per year deposited from



the soft drink tax under the Arkansas Soft Drink Tax Act, § 26-57-901 et seq.; and

(4) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

(c) The Department of Education shall solely use the fund to contribute to the salaries of public school nurses in this state.

(d) This section expires on July 1, 2025, unless extended by the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 26-57-908, as enacted by Proposed Referred Act 1 of 1994, also known as the Arkansas Soft Drink Tax Proposed Referred Act, concerning the disposition of revenues collected under the Arkansas Soft Drink Tax Act, is amended to read as follows:

26-57-908. Disposition of revenues.

The revenues derived from the tax collected under this subchapter shall be remitted to the Treasurer of State, who shall deposit the revenues as trust funds into the State Treasury and shall credit the proceeds to:

(1) The first five million (\$5,000,000) per year into the School Nurse Salary Trust Fund for the Department of Education to use solely to contribute to the salaries of public school nurses in this state; and

(2) The ~~the~~ trust fund known as the "Arkansas Medicaid Program Trust Fund".

SECTION 3. Expiration.

This act expires on July 1, 2025, unless extended by the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Reconsideration of funding for school nurse salaries.

The House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education shall:

(1) Review and reexamine the distribution of the proceeds from the Arkansas Soft Drink Tax Proposed Referred Act, § 26-57-901 et seq., to contribute to the salaries of public school nurses; and

(2) Consider redirecting the proceeds or a portion of the proceeds received from any other source to the salaries of public school nurses within the state.