

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1240

By: Representative Andrews

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

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

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

(21)(A) "Fire department" means an organization that:

(i) Is established for the prevention or extinguishment of fires; and

(ii) Employs a volunteer fire fighter.

(B) "Fire department" includes a firefighting unit; and

(22) "Volunteer firefighter" means a member of a fire department

who:

(A) Actively engages in fire suppression, rescue, pump operation, or other firefighting activity; and

(B) Receives less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in total compensation during the taxable year from the volunteer fire department



that the volunteer firefighter serves.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-5-410(g)(1), concerning eligibility to participate in the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, is amended to read as follows:

(g)(1) The following persons are eligible to participate in the program:

(A) A public school employee who is in a position that requires on average at least thirty (30) hours per week of actual performance of duty during the annual school year; ~~and~~

(B) A full-time school bus driver who is employed by a public school district to drive regular routes during the annual school year; and

(C)(i) A volunteer firefighter.

(ii) A volunteer firefighter who elects to participate in the program is responsible to pay a premium as determined by the State Board of Finance or the cost of the policy issued to the volunteer firefighter.

(iii) The volunteer firefighter portion of the premium may be:

(a) Deducted from a bank account of the volunteer firefighter to be paid by a monthly bank draft on the date designated by the Employee Benefits Division; or

(b) Paid in full or partially by the fire department that employs the volunteer firefighter directly to the division on the date designated by the division.