

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/31/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1344

By: Representative Warren

By: Senator J. Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS
TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO CORRECT THE NAME OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF UNDER TITLE 24 OF THE ARKANSAS CODE; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE
ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AND
TO CORRECT THE NAME OF THE ARKANSAS
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE ARKANSAS
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF UNDER TITLE 24 OF
THE ARKANSAS CODE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 24-4-507(a)(2)-(3), concerning credited service for an employee of the Arkansas School for the Blind or the Arkansas School for the Deaf, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) For periods of time prior to July 1, 1991, in no case shall less than ten (10) days of service rendered by a member in any calendar month be credited as a month of service, nor shall less than eleven (11) months of service rendered by a member in any fiscal year be credited as a year of service unless the member ~~is~~ was employed by the former Arkansas School for the Blind, ~~or~~ the former Arkansas School for the Deaf, the state colleges and universities, or the public schools of the state, in which case nine (9) months would constitute a year of credited service.



(B) For periods of time prior to July 1, 1991, in no case can less than nine (9) months of service rendered in any fiscal year be credited as a full year of service, nor shall more than one (1) year of service be credited any member for all service rendered by him or her in a fiscal year.

(3)(A) Beginning July 1, 1992, and thereafter, service rendered by a member in any calendar month shall be credited as service based upon the member's number of hours of service in that month and in accordance with the following schedule:

- Eighty (80) or more hours of service One (1) month
- Sixty (60) hours up to less than eighty (80) hours Three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) month
- Forty (40) hours up to less than sixty (60) hours One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) month
- Twenty (20) hours up to less than forty (40) hours One-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) month
- Less than twenty (20) hours No credit.

(B) Beginning July 1, 1991, in no case shall less than eleven (11) months of service rendered by a member in any fiscal year be credited as a full year of service, except that the minimum shall be lowered to nine (9) months for a member whose covered employment is employment with the former Arkansas School for the Blind, ~~or the former~~ Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, the state colleges and universities, or the public schools.

(C) Any member who retires on or after July 1, 1999, shall receive six (6) months of service credit for each full semester of service rendered in any fiscal year for covered employment with the former Arkansas School for the Blind, ~~or the former~~ Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, the state colleges and universities, or the public schools of the state.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-7-202(21)(A), concerning the definition of "employment with a school" under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

(21) "Employment with a school" means, beginning July 1, 1993:

(A) Employment with any of the following institutions or

agencies:

- (i) Former Arkansas School for the Blind;
- (ii) Former Arkansas School for the Deaf;
- Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind;
- ~~(iii)~~(iv) Arkansas Activities Association;
- ~~(iv)~~(v) State Board of Education;
- ~~(v)~~(vi) Regional education service cooperatives; and
- ~~(vi)~~(vii) Arkansas Teacher Retirement System;

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVENESS.

Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall become effective only if HB1810 of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly is enacted by the General Assembly and becomes an act.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the merger of the Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf under HB1810 of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly cannot occur during the middle of a school year; that if HB1810 of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly did go into effect during the middle of a school year, there would be significant disruptions in funding and confusion among administration, staff, students, and parents of students; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the necessary changes in implementing the merger of the Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf under HB1810 of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly are made consistent throughout the Arkansas Code and at the same time that HB1810 of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly goes into effect before the upcoming 2026 fiscal year. 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.

/s/Warren