

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: S3/12/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 148

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative Achor

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARKANSAS
TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO ESTABLISH THE CREATING
AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS
ACT OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE CREATING AN INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS
ACT OF 2025.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

(1) Provide a voluntary mechanism for early childhood workers to participate in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System; and

(2) Require no expenditure of state funds for matching of any contributions for early childhood workers who are not otherwise eligible for participation in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

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

(H) Employment of an early childhood worker as defined by § 24-7-212(b), with a licensed childcare facility that provides teaching, early childcare education, or supervision for a child enrolled in a licensed childcare facility under the Childcare Licensing Act, § 20-78-201 et seq.;"



SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 24, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24-7-212. Creating an Investment Opportunity for Early Childhood Workers Act of 2025 – Definition.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Creating an Investment Opportunity for Early Childhood Workers Act of 2025."

(b) As used in this section, "early childhood worker" means a person who is:

(1) Providing teaching, early childcare education, or supervision for a child enrolled in a licensed childcare facility under the Childcare Facility Licensing Act, § 20-78-201 et seq.;

(2) Employed by a childcare provider that is licensed and regulated by the Department of Education as an appropriate early childhood program as defined under § 6-45-103; and

(3) Employed by a childcare provider that receives state or federal child care funding from the Department of Education under § 6-87-101.

(c)(1) A single nonprofit fiscal agent that is approved by the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System may act as a pass-through fiscal agent to facilitate the voluntary participation of an early childhood worker in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

(2) The board shall authorize participation consistent with § 24-7-202(21)(F)(i) and § 24-7-202(21)(F)(ii).

(3) Membership in the system is not mandatory for an employee of a facility regardless of whether the board authorizes participation under subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

(d) An early childhood worker shall not be entitled to:

(1) Contribution from state funds; or

(2) Matching from the state or the system.

(e) The board shall promulgate rules for the implementation of this section.

/s/J. English