

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2014
4

Call Item 3

A Bill

SENATE BILL 4

5 By: Senators J. Hendren, Bledsoe, E. Cheatham, D. Sanders, J. Cooper, J. English, Hickey
6 By: Representatives Copenhaver, Gossage, Kerr, McGill, E. Armstrong, Gillam, Hickerson, B. Overbey,
7 Richey, Talley, T. Thompson, Wardlaw, B. Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
11 PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND
12 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
13 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
17 FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE AND PUBLIC
18 SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
19 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-5-410, concerning the eligibility
26 requirements for participation in the State and Public School Life and Health
27 Insurance Program, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as
28 follows:

29 (g)(1) Beginning in the 2015 plan year, a public school employee is
30 eligible to participate in the program if the public school employee is in a
31 position that requires on average at least thirty (30) hours per week of
32 actual performance of duty during the annual school year.

33 (2) A public school employee who is in a variable hour position
34 is ineligible.

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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-17-1111 is repealed.



1 ~~(3) A person who contracts with a public school district to~~
2 ~~operate a school bus and is designated by the superintendent as a full-time~~
3 ~~school bus driver, regardless of the number of hours for which the person~~
4 ~~contracted.~~

5 ~~(b) All full-time school bus drivers who are not under current law~~
6 ~~eligible to participate in the public school employees insurance program~~
7 ~~provided for by §§ 6-17-1109 and 6-17-1111—6-17-1115 shall hereafter be~~
8 ~~eligible to participate in the program provided that they pay all costs~~
9 ~~associated with participating in the program unless the employing school~~
10 ~~district opts to pay all or a portion of that cost.~~

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12 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 2 and 3 of this act are effective
13 on and after January 1, 2015.

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15 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
16 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the State and Public School
17 Life and Health Insurance Program requires fundamental restructuring to
18 ensure that affordable health insurance options are available to state and
19 public school employees; that an urgent need exists to start implementing the
20 necessary reforms to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance
21 Program; and that Section 1 of this act is immediately necessary to improve
22 the financial viability of the State and Public School Life and Health
23 Insurance Program. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and Section
24 1 of this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
25 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

26 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

27 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
28 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
29 bill; or

30 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
31 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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