

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 196

5 By: Senators Hunter, Faris
6 By: Representative R. Smith
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LUMP-SUM BENEFIT TO
11 BENEFICIARIES OF RETIREES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE
12 HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO BE PAID
13 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RETIREES' DEATH; TO DECLARE
14 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

Subtitle

16 TO PROVIDE A LUMP-SUM BENEFIT TO
17 BENEFICIARIES OF RETIREES OF THE HIGHWAY
18 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO BE PAID
19 AT THE RETIREES' DEATH.
20
21
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. (a)(1) Beginning on the effective date of this act, the
26 Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System shall pay an amount not to
27 exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to the named beneficiary
28 of the retiree or a member in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)
29 immediately following the retiree's death.

30 (2) If there is more than one named beneficiary the amount shall
31 be divided equally between the named beneficiaries.

32 (3) If there are no designated persons surviving the retiree or
33 DROP member the lump sum shall be paid to the estate.

34 (b) If a retiree or a DROP member is entitled to a similar benefit from
35 a reciprocal system then Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System
36 shall pay a prorated share based on the number of years in the Arkansas State

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1 Highway Employees' Retirement System divided by the total public service time.

2
 3 SECTION 2. [THE ARKANSAS CODE REVISION COMMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED TO
 4 CODIFY THIS SECTION.] No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall
 5 be implemented if it would cause the publicly supported retirement system's
 6 unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities to exceed a thirty (30) year
 7 amortization. No benefit enhancement provided for by this act shall be
 8 implemented by any publicly supported system which has unfunded actuarial
 9 accrued liabilities being amortized over a period exceeding thirty (30) years
 10 until the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is reduced to a level less than
 11 the standards prescribed by Arkansas Code, Title 24.

12
 13 SECTION 3. Emergency Clause. It is found and determined by the Eighty-
 14 third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that deceased retirees of the
 15 Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System leave beneficiaries in
 16 need of financial support, that there is a necessity of financial stability
 17 for beneficiaries during this time of crisis, that this benefit is then
 18 important to provide for retirees immediately, and that this act should
 19 therefore have immediate effect. Therefore an emergency is declared to exist
 20 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
 21 peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by
 22 the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it
 23 shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which
 24 the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the
 25 veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house
 26 overrides the veto.