

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 197

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

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 24-5-125 TO CLARIFY THE  
11 AMOUNT DUE A RETIREE OF THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
12 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR BENEFITS TO OFFSET  
13 THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE; TO  
14 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
15

### Subtitle

16 TO CLARIFY THE AMOUNT DUE A RETIREE OF  
17 THE HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
18 FOR BENEFITS TO OFFSET THE COST OF  
19 HEALTH INSURANCE.  
20  
21  
22

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

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 24-5-125(b), concerning the eligibility to  
26 receive certain increased benefits under the State Highway Employees'  
27 Retirement System, is amended to read as follows:

28 (b)(1) The board, in its discretion, may prorate the benefits provided  
29 under this section for all individuals retiring after June 30, 1999, if the  
30 individual is also eligible for an additional monthly benefit as a result of  
31 credited service under one (1) or more of the other reciprocal systems, as  
32 such systems are enumerated in § 24-2-401.

33 (2)(A) Any individual who retires on or after July 1, 2001, shall  
34 be eligible to receive benefits under this section provided:

35 (i) The individual was an employee of the Arkansas  
36 State Highway and Transportation Department for five (5) years or more; or

\*VJF392\*

011120010240.VJF392

1                   (ii) The individual will receive benefits from a  
2 reciprocal system offering a similar benefit as offered under this section.

3                   (B) The individual receiving similar benefits from a  
4 reciprocal system shall be entitled to a prorated amount of the benefits, the  
5 aggregate amount not to exceed the amount allowed by the board under this  
6 section.

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

17  
18           SECTION 3. Emergency Clause. It is found and determined by the Eighty-  
19 third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is an inequity in  
20 retirement benefits provided by the Arkansas State Highway Employees'  
21 Retirement System, that this inequity needs to be corrected, and that the  
22 proper administration of the retirement system calls for changes to be  
23 implemented with the beginning of the state's fiscal year. Therefore an  
24 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for  
25 the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective  
26 on July 1, 2001.