

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1240

4
5 By: Representative Andrews
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 AN ACT TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE
10 STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE
11 PROGRAM TO CERTAIN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER
17 THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND
18 HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN
19 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-5-407, concerning definitions used under
24 the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, is amended to
25 add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (21)(A) "Fire department" means an organization that:

27 (i) Is established for the prevention or
28 extinguishment of fires; and

29 (ii) Employs a volunteer fire fighter.

30 (B) "Fire department" includes a firefighting unit; and

31 (22) "Volunteer firefighter" means a member of a fire department
32 who:

33 (A) Actively engages in fire suppression, rescue, pump
34 operation, or other firefighting activity; and

35 (B) Receives less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in
36 total compensation during the taxable year from the volunteer fire department



1 that the volunteer firefighter serves.

2
3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-5-410(g)(1), concerning eligibility to
4 participate in the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (g)(1) The following persons are eligible to participate in the
7 program:

8 (A) A public school employee who is in a position that
9 requires on average at least thirty (30) hours per week of actual performance
10 of duty during the annual school year; ~~and~~

11 (B) A full-time school bus driver who is employed by a
12 public school district to drive regular routes during the annual school year;
13 and

14 (C)(i) A volunteer firefighter.

15 (ii) A volunteer firefighter who elects to
16 participate in the program is responsible to pay a premium as determined by
17 the State Board of Finance or the cost of the policy issued to the volunteer
18 firefighter.

19 (iii) The volunteer firefighter portion of the
20 premium may be:

21 (a) Deducted from a bank account of the
22 volunteer firefighter to be paid by a monthly bank draft on the date
23 designated by the Employee Benefits Division; or

24 (b) Paid in full or partially by the fire
25 department that employs the volunteer firefighter directly to the division on
26 the date designated by the division.

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