

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H3/9/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1447

5 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, *Scott*
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES; TO AMEND THE
10 MECHANISM BY WHICH SCHOOL NURSES ARE COMPENSATED; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH SCHOOL
16 NURSES ARE COMPENSATED.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-17-2202(1)(B), concerning the definition
22 of "classified employee", is amended to read as follows:

- 23 (B) "Classified employee" does not include a ~~nonlicensed~~;
- 24 (i) Nonlicensed teacher; or
- 25 (ii) School nurse; and
- 26

27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 17, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-17-122. School nurses – Compensation.

30 (a) As used in this section, "school nurse" means a licensed nurse
31 engaging in school nursing activities.

32 (b) Each school district board of directors shall:

- 33 (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, pay school
- 34 nurses a minimum base salary that is at least equal to the minimum base
- 35 salary required for classroom teachers by § 6-17-2403; and

36 (2) Adopt a school nurse salary schedule that incorporates the



1 same or similar factors and steps as those used to establish and incorporated
2 in the public school district's employee salary schedule required by § 6-17-
3 2403.

4 (c)(1)(A) For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year
5 thereafter, each public school district shall have in place for a school
6 nurse employed by the public school district a minimum base salary and school
7 nurse salary schedule that meet the requirements of this section.

8 (B) The salary schedule for school nurses required under
9 this section shall be prorated based on a basic contract for teachers of one
10 hundred ninety (190) days as established under § 6-17-2402.

11 (2)(A) A school nurse who holds a bachelor's degree and who has
12 zero (0) years of experience shall receive the same base salary for the
13 respective school year as that received by a classroom teacher who is
14 employed by the same public school district in which the school nurse is
15 employed and who has zero (0) years of experience and a bachelor's degree.

16 (B) A school nurse shall have his or her base salary
17 adjusted according to the factors considered in the salary schedule adopted
18 by the public school district in which the school nurse is employed.

19 (3) A school nurse shall receive at least ninety percent (90%) of the
20 base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same or similar
21 levels of education, experience, and other factors considered by a public
22 school district in its school nurse salary schedule and employee salary
23 schedule if the school nurse:

24 (A) Does not hold a bachelor's degree; and

25 (B) Is a registered nurse.

26 (4) A school nurse shall receive at least eighty percent (80%)
27 of the base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same or
28 similar levels of education, experience, and other factors considered by a
29 public school district in its school nurse salary schedule and employee
30 salary schedule if the school nurse:

31 (A) Does not hold a bachelor's degree; and

32 (B) Is a licensed practical nurse.

33 (d) A public school district shall not lower the current salary of a
34 school nurse who is currently:

35 (1) Employed by the public school district; and

36 (2) Earning a rate of pay that is higher than the salary

1 schedule required by this section.

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/s/J. Mayberry

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