

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1447

4
5 By: Representative J. Mayberry
6 By: Senator K. Hammer

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.

Subtitle

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14 TO AMEND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH SCHOOL
15 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

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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 pay school nurses
33 based on at least the minimum salary schedule provided by the Teacher
34 Compensation Program of 2003, § 6-17-2401 et seq., which provides:

- 35 (1) Annual increments based on education and experience; and
36 (2) A base salary.



1 (c)(1)(A) For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year
2 thereafter, each public school district shall have in place for a school
3 nurse employed by the public school district the salary schedule established
4 by § 6-17-2403.

5 (B) The salary schedule for school nurses required under
6 this subdivision (c)(1) shall be prorated based on a basic contract for
7 teachers of one hundred ninety (190) days as established under § 6-17-2402.

8 (2)(A) A school nurse who holds a bachelor's degree and who has
9 zero (0) years of experience shall receive the same base salary for the
10 respective school year as that established for a classroom teacher with zero
11 (0) years of experience and a bachelor's degree.

12 (B) A school nurse shall have his or her base salary
13 adjusted relative to years of experience and educational training based on
14 the salary schedule established by § 6-17-2403.

15 (3) A school nurse shall receive at least ninety percent (90%)
16 of the base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same number
17 of years of experience as the school nurse if the school nurse:

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

19 (B) Is a registered nurse.

20 (4) A school nurse shall receive at least eighty percent (80%)
21 of the base salary established for a classroom teacher with the same number
22 of years of experience as the school nurse if the school nurse:

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

24 (B) Is a licensed practical nurse.

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

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

28 (2) Earning a rate of pay that is higher than the salary
29 schedule provided by this section.

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