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.

Act 306 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: S3/5/07	
2	86th General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2007		HOUSE BILL 1479
4			
5	By: Representative Wagner		
6			
7			
8	For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS		
10	OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL		
11	DISTRICTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.		
12			
13	Subtitle		
14	AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH INSURANCE		
15	BENEFITS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF		
16	PUBLIC SC	CHOOL DISTRICTS.	
17			
18			
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERA	AL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF	ARKANSAS:
20			
21	SECTION 1. Arkansas	Code § 6-17-1117(c), concer	rning health insurance
22	benefits for public school employees, is amended to read as follows:		
23	(c)(1) A school district shall:		
24	(A) Prov	vide the same employer-provi	ided health insurance
25	benefits for all full-time	school district employees;	and
26	(B) Pay	the same employer contribut	tion rate for each
27	eligible employee electing	to participate in the publi	ic school employees'
28	health insurance program.		
29	(2) If a school	ol district entered into a o	contract with a
30	superintendent, teacher, or	r other personnel prior to $oldsymbol{\mathit{H}}$	April 11, 2006, and the
31	contract provides for a high	gher employer contribution i	rate than is paid for a
32	majority of the certified	personnel in the district, t	then the district may
33	continue to pay the higher	contribution rate as provid	ded under the existing
34	contract but not under exte	ensions, addendums, or new o	contracts created after
35	April 11, 2006, without increasing all other employees to the same rate.		

As Engrossed: S3/5/07 HB1479

1	(3) Any school district that entered into contracts with classified		
2	personnel prior to the effective date of this act and the contracts provided		
3	for a higher employer contribution funding amount than is paid for certified		
4	personnel in the school district shall freeze the employer contribution		
5	funding amount for classified employees until such time as the funding amount		
6	contributed for certified personnel equals or exceeds the funding amount		
7	provided for classified employees.		
8			
9	SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the		
10	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that classified employees in public		
11	school districts who receive higher employer contribution rates than		
12	certified employees of the school district may suffer an unintended reduction		
13	in the employer contributions for their public school employees' health		
14	insurance benefits under the application of current law; that this act		
15	remedies the unintended consequence of prior law and protects the employer		
16	contribution rate for those classified employees until a higher rate is paid		
17	to certified employees; and that this act is immediately necessary to		
18	establish the earliest possible date for the protection of these benefits.		
19	Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately		
20	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall		
21	become effective on:		
22	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;		
23	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,		
24	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the		
25	bill; or		
26	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is		
27	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.		
28			
29	/s/ Wagner		
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31	APPROVED: 3/16/2007		
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