

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1268

5 By: Representatives McCullough, F. Allen, Clowney, A. Collins, Ennett, D. Ferguson, K. Ferguson, V.
6 Flowers, D. Garner, Hudson, Magie, Nicks, Perry, J. Richardson, Scott, T. Shephard, Springer, D.
7 Whitaker
8 By: Senators G. Leding, L. Chesterfield, S. Flowers, F. Love, R. Murdock, C. Tucker
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE RAISE ACT OF
12 2023 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
13 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL
14 YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; TO CREATE THE RAISING
15 ARKANSAS'S INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS
16 (RAISE) ACT OF 2023 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
17
18

Subtitle

19 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
20 DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
21 EDUCATION - THE RAISE ACT OF 2023
22 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL
23 YEAR.
24
25
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
28

29 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. This act shall be known and may be cited as
30 the "Raising Arkansas's Investment in Schools and Educators (RAISE) Act of
31 2023".
32

33 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS TEACHER RAISES. There is hereby
34 appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the Division
35 of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account, for the
36 payment of raises for all teachers in the state of Arkansas as defined by



1 Arkansas Code 6-17-2402(3) of the Department of Education - Arkansas Teacher
 2 Raises for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2023-2024
(01) ARKANSAS TEACHER RAISES	<u>\$350,000,000</u>

7
 8 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - EDUCATOR COMPENSATION REFORM PROGRAM. There
 9 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from
 10 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund
 11 Account, for grants and aid to provide additional funding to school districts
 12 currently below the statutory minimum teacher salary schedule as defined in
 13 Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403(b) and revised by this act of the Department of
 14 Education - Educator Compensation Reform Program for the fiscal year ending
 15 June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2023-2024
(01) EDUCATOR COMPENSATION REFORM GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$30,000,000</u>

21
 22 SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 23 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS
 24 TEACHER RAISES FUNDING. Upon the effective date of this Act, or as soon
 25 thereafter as practical, the Department of Education shall provide raises to
 26 all full-time equivalent teachers in the state as defined by Arkansas Code §
 27 6-17-2402(3) at the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per full-time
 28 equivalent teacher working in a public school district. The Department of
 29 Education may promulgate rules for the distribution of these funds and shall
 30 fully budget, allocate, and expend the total amount necessary to provide the
 31 full raise amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each full-time
 32 equivalent teacher as defined by Arkansas Code § 6-17-2402(3).

33
 34 SECTION 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 35 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. EDUCATOR
 36 COMPENSATION REFORM PROGRAM SUB-FUND. Upon the effective date of this Act,

1 or as soon thereafter as practical, the Arkansas State Treasurer shall
 2 transfer thirty million (\$30,000,000) from the Educational Adequacy Fund to
 3 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account
 4 to be used solely for the implementation of the Educator Compensation Reform
 5 Program. Funds shall be kept separate from all other monies in the Division
 6 of Elementary and Secondary Education Public School Fund Account in the
 7 Educator Compensation Reform Program Sub-Fund and are to be utilized over a
 8 one-year period, effective on July 1, 2023 to assist school districts in
 9 ensuring that all full-time equivalent educators as defined by Arkansas Code
 10 § 6-17-2402(3) in Arkansas public school districts receive a minimum annual
 11 salary of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) by June 30, 2024. The Educator
 12 Compensation Reform Sub-Fund shall not be considered part of a school
 13 district's net legal balance or net legal balance revenues for the purpose of
 14 meeting the requirements on limitation of fund balances pursuant to Arkansas
 15 Code § 6-20-2210. The Arkansas Department of Education shall promulgate
 16 rules to administer this section.

17
 18 SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-17-
 19 2402(3), concerning the definition of "teacher" under the Teacher
 20 Compensation Program of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

21 (3) "Teacher" means:

22 (A) An individual who is required to hold a teaching license from the
 23 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and who is engaged directly in
 24 instruction with students in a classroom setting for more than seventy
 25 percent (70%) of the individual's contracted time;

26 (B) A guidance counselor;~~or~~

27 (C) A librarian;

28 (D) A curriculum specialist;

29 (E) An instructional facilitator; or

30 (F) Any other full-time employee of a public school district who is
 31 not in an administrator or director-level role and who is required to hold a
 32 teaching license issued by the State Board of Education as a condition of
 33 employment.

34
 35 SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 6-17-
 36 2403(b), concerning the minimum teacher compensation schedule, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) Each school district in the state shall have in place a salary
 3 schedule with at least the following minimum levels of compensation for a
 4 basic contract:

5 ~~(1) For the 2019-2020 school year:~~

6	Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
7	0	\$32,800	\$37,450
8	1	33,250	37,950
9	2	33,700	38,450
10	3	34,150	38,950
11	4	34,600	39,450
12	5	35,050	39,950
13	6	35,500	40,450
14	7	35,950	40,950
15	8	36,400	41,450
16	9	36,850	41,950
17	10	37,300	42,450
18	11	37,750	42,950
19	12	38,200	43,450
20	13	38,650	43,950
21	14	39,100	44,450
22	15	39,550	44,950;

23 ~~(2) For the 2020-2021 school year:~~

24	Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
25	0	\$33,800	\$38,450
26	1	34,250	38,950
27	2	34,700	39,450
28	3	35,150	39,950
29	4	35,600	40,450
30	5	36,050	40,950
31	6	36,500	41,450
32	7	36,950	41,950
33	8	37,400	42,450
34	9	37,850	42,950
35	10	38,300	43,450
36	11	38,750	43,950

1	12	39,200	44,450
2	13	39,650	44,950
3	14	40,100	45,450
4	15	40,550	45,950;
5	(3) For the 2021-2022 school year:		
6	Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
7	0	\$34,900	\$39,550
8	1	35,350	40,050
9	2	35,800	40,550
10	3	36,250	41,050
11	4	36,700	41,550
12	5	37,150	42,050
13	6	37,600	42,550
14	7	38,050	43,050
15	8	38,500	43,550
16	9	38,950	44,050
17	10	39,400	44,550
18	11	39,850	45,050
19	12	40,300	45,550
20	13	40,750	46,050
21	14	41,200	46,550
22	15	41,650	47,050; and

23 ~~(4) For the 2022-2023~~ 2023-2024 school year and each school year
 24 thereafter:

25	Years of Experience	BA Degree Salary	MA Degree Salary
26	0	\$36,000 <u>\$50,000</u>	\$40,650 <u>\$54,650</u>
27	1	36,450 <u>50,450</u>	41,150 <u>55,150</u>
28	2	36,900 <u>50,900</u>	41,650 <u>55,650</u>
29	3	37,350 <u>51,350</u>	42,150 <u>56,150</u>
30	4	37,800 <u>51,800</u>	42,650 <u>56,650</u>
31	5	38,250 <u>52,250</u>	43,150 <u>57,150</u>
32	6	38,700 <u>52,700</u>	43,650 <u>57,650</u>
33	7	39,150 <u>53,150</u>	44,150 <u>58,150</u>
34	8	39,600 <u>53,600</u>	44,650 <u>58,650</u>
35	9	40,050 <u>54,050</u>	45,150 <u>59,150</u>
36	10	40,500 <u>54,500</u>	45,650 <u>59,650</u>

1	11	40,950 <u>54,950</u>	46,150 <u>60,150</u>
2	12	41,400 <u>55,400</u>	46,650 <u>60,650</u>
3	13	41,850 <u>55,850</u>	47,150 <u>61,150</u>
4	14	42,300 <u>56,300</u>	47,650 <u>61,650</u>
5	15	42,750 <u>56,750</u>	48,150 <u>62,150</u> .

6

7 SECTION 8. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
 8 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
 9 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
 10 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
 11 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
 12 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
 13 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
 14 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
 15 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

16

17 SECTION 9. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
 18 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
 19 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
 20 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
 21 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
 22 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
 23 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
 24 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

25

26 SECTION 10. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 27 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
 28 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
 29 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2023, is essential to the operation of
 30 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
 31 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
 32 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2023, could work irreparable harm
 33 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
 34 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
 35 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
 36 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2023.