



*Serving active and retired state employees in Arkansas for over 50 years.*

# ASEA News



Photo Credit: The Arkansas Secretary of State's Office

## 2021 Legislative Review Issue

Stay in touch!



Jeff Jackson  
Board President

This newsletter coincides with the adjournment of the 93rd legislative session of the Arkansas General Assembly, and unlike previous sessions, this legislative session presented many new challenges for ASEA staff.

For many years, the ASEA staff have worked tirelessly to foster relationships and open lines of communication with legislators, the Governor's Office, APERS, and other key stakeholders that impact state employees. These relationships proved to be crucial to ASEA's success this year as the COVID-19 pandemic restricted our ability to attend committee meetings in person and limited face-to-face interaction with legislators.

I would like to take this opportunity, as a state employee, to personally thank John Bridges-Executive Director, Nicholas Poole-Legislative Analyst, and the entire ASEA team for all their tremendous efforts this year in ensuring we continue to have a strong voice at the Capitol. Not only does ASEA work to protect benefits of current state employees, like myself, they also fight for benefits for retired state employees!

This past session there were many policy changes that impact current and retired state employees; this issue of ASEA News will highlight the efforts of ASEA in shaping legislation that includes an increase in the years members can remain in the DROP from 7 to 10 years, legislative oversight of the state employee insurance plans, and protecting current employees' retirement benefits.

Additionally, you will find a letter that John Bridges, our Executive Director, submitted to the State Board of Finance; it is requesting use of surplus funds to increase performance pay to offset anticipated increases to our insurance premiums and retirement contributions.

The positive impact of ASEA staff during this past session shows that ASEA continues to be a viable voice for state employees at the Capitol. As the only advocacy group for state employees, we are only as strong as our membership, and we need active and informed members to support the efforts of the ASEA staff.

I would like to thank each of you for your contributions to the State of Arkansas and for your active involvement in ASEA. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow state employees and inspire those who are not already members to join us as we continue to promote positive policy changes for state employees.



John Bridges  
Executive Director

The 93rd legislative session was very busy for ASEA. This year, there were numerous bills filed concerning your retirement plan and health insurance. These were all aimed to improve the financial condition and sustainability of these two vital benefits for state employees.

### **Retirement**

You are probably already aware of the retirement plan bill package that was discussed in statewide townhall meetings and in this newsletter numerous times. I would like to add that we worked carefully, that the changes would have minimum impact on current and retired employees. Your board felt that while recruiting is important, maintaining the benefits you were told you would get once hired should remain intact; after all, new hires will have plenty of time to prepare for their retirement. There were no changes made to the COLA for active and retired employees.

The bill that would add ASEA and other association directors to the APERS board failed on the House floor due to concerns about adding private lobbyist organizations to a public board. But another version with the same intention to add more member representation was passed that will allow both the Senate Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House to appoint the additional positions. APERS has allowed us to reprint the new changes on pages 6-8. If you have any questions concerning the retirement changes, please contact APERS at [apers.org](http://apers.org).

### **Health Insurance**

With the state employee health insurance plan facing a \$33 million deficit, the teachers' health insurance plan facing a \$70 million deficit, and you combine that with a reversed decision to end the retirees' pharmacy plan - health insurance was a hot topic this session.

Ahead of the session, ASEA formed a Retiree Benefits Sub-Committee. These volunteers worked very diligently (thank you for all your hard work!) to draft a bill that would add additional active employee and retiree board representation to EBD, increase the state funding per member, and create legislative approval to any major plan design changes that the EBD board proposed. We found two great sponsors in Senator Rapert and Representative Lundstrum and added numerous co-sponsors. Once the bill was filed, there was concern from the Arkansas Administration Association that adding additional state employees to the board would shift the teacher/state employee to unequal proportions. We also learned that members of the Arkansas Legislative Council were working on similar health-insurance-related changes. Some would be in bill form and some in procedural changes. Our first bill died in committee because of the aforementioned reasons. It can be a struggle to follow all the moving parts and keep your goals intact, as this session moved fast and furious, but the retiree committee and your legislative team kept moving ahead and in the end, our goals were accomplished - just not in its original form.

In the end, several bills were passed that dissolved the EBD board and temporarily puts plan design change proposal to the Board of Finance, increases the cap the state can spend on members to \$550 (we were asking for \$500), and requires that any design plan proposals must be presented and approved by the Legislative Council.

The narrative we were hearing at the Capitol is that members of the Legislative Council do not want to inject money into the two state health plans unless they can find solutions to stop these catastrophic deficits that arise every few years. A consulting firm has been hired to present to ALC ideas to improve the financial health of the plans. This report should be presented in the coming months. ASEA will work to obtain a copy and share with our members as soon as it is available.

The next chapter in the health insurance saga is the Board of Finance's proposal for possible changes to the 2022 plan. Remember, this must go in front of ALC to get approved but in my opinion, they will wait on deciding until reviewing the consultant's report. The proposed changes to the plan intended to bring the plan back to solvency were for a 5% increase for active employees and a 10% increase for retirees, and a \$25 reduction in the wellness credit for active employees. Removing the pharmacy plan for retirees was not included in the proposal. This could change with the consultant's report and we will be monitoring.

### **Next Steps**

ASEA is aware and concerned that with an additional increase in retirement and health insurance costs, you need a raise to keep your salary moving in a positive direction. The immediate step we can take is to ensure that you receive a higher-than-average performance pay increase. The next step after that would be to get your pay plan adjusted, but we cannot do that outside of a legislative session. We are sending a letter of request of the above-mentioned concerns to all the decision makers explaining in detail why our request is necessary. Please see the next two pages to read the letter. Thank you for being a member of ASEA. Please email me at [jbridges@aseaar.org](mailto:jbridges@aseaar.org) with any concerns or suggestions.



# Arkansas State Employees Association

1301 W. 7th St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
www.aseaar.org

phone: 501-378-0187  
fax: 501-378-0113

Board Officers

President - Jeff Jackson  
District 2 - (Counties - Fulton, Izard, Lawrence, Randolph, Sharp)

Past President - Loy Bailey

Vice President - Dona Bowry - District 9  
(County - Pulaski)

Secretary - Hollie Patrick - District 1 -  
(Counties - Benton, Carroll, Washington, Madison)

Board Members

District 3 - Janice Griffin - (Counties - Clay, Craighead, Greene, Mississippi)

District 4 - Greg Murray and DeLilah Ingram - (Counties - Arkansas, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie)

District 5 - Dorothy Henderson - (Counties - Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Drew)

District 6 - Judy Beatty - (Counties - Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada)

District 7 - Vacant - (Counties - Clark, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Saline)

District 8 - Nancy Priest - (Counties - Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Scott, Sebastian)

District 9 - Dona Bowry, Heinz Braun, and Jennifer Siccardi - (County - Pulaski)

District 10 - Jacqueline Caradine - (Counties - Stone, Van Buren, Cleburne, Faulkner)

District 11 - Vacant - (Counties - Howard, Montgomery, Pike, Polk, Sevier)

District 12 - Nathan Marlin - (Counties - Independence, Jackson, Poinsett, White, Woodruff)

District 13 - Vacant - (Counties - Boone, Baxter, Newton, Marion, Searcy)

District 14 - Vacant - (Counties - Johnson, Pope, Conway, Perry, Yell)

District 15 - Chasty Lucas - (Counties - Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, St. Francis)

District 16 - James Scott - (Counties - Dallas, Cleveland, Ouachita, Calhoun, Columbia, Union)

At-Large

Clayton Rogers, Retired, Jerusalem  
Gary Wallace, Retired, Greenbrier  
Helen Emerson, Retired, Pine Bluff  
Jim Abson, Retired, Little Rock  
Mary McGehee, Little Rock

May 19, 2021

Attention:

Governor Hutchinson  
Senator Hickey  
Representative Shepherd  
Mr. Larry Walther

Gentlemen:

I write with regard to the upcoming decisions to be made regarding the 2022 health insurance plan for state employees, both active and retired. As you are well aware, the Arkansas State Employees plan ("ASE") is currently in some fiscal distress, which is the subject of a consulting contract with a report expected later this year. In addition, although the previous Board had made recommendations on changes for the 2022 plan year, the decision-making duties have since been transferred to the Board of Finance. As a result, state employees and retirees are waiting on pins and needles to be told whether they will even have coverage next year and, if so, whether the cost will be something they can afford.

We recognize that some changes to the administration of the ASE plan are necessary and we look forward to reviewing the consultant's recommendations. In fact, under similar circumstances last year with the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, our dedicated employees understood that additional contributions would be needed for the long-term health of the system and we agreed to an increase in contributions that will start on July 1, 2021. But in the short term, the dedicated public servants that ASEA represents sorely need some certainty over the 2022 plan year and a recognition that the State, as the employer, is also responsible for the health insurance program. State employees have done and will continue to do their part and we respectfully request that the State do the same.

Since the state is fortunate enough to be experiencing a \$717 million surplus, we believe that this allows some flexibility in financial decisions that would not normally be available.

On behalf of the active employees and retirees, we ask you to take the following actions:

- For active employees, we ask you to commit to a higher level of funding for performance pay for FY 2021-22. In the past, the middle category of "solid performer" has typically received a 2.5% increase for performance pay, with no cost of living increase. Given the near-certainty that health insurance premiums will rise along with a rise in the cost of the retirement contributions, a one-time increase in performance pay funding to a slightly higher level will significantly help to offset the higher benefit costs to state employees. Specifically, we call for a 4% increase for the "solid performer" status, with other categories receiving increases accordingly.



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Helen Emerson, Retired, Pine Bluff  
Jim Abson, Retired, Little Rock  
Mary McGehee, Little Rock

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- For the retirees, we ask that you confirm that there will be no changes to the pharmacy benefits or spousal coverage for the 2022 plan year. Many retirees have planned their retirement around having these benefits available as they have been for so many years and they do not have many options to replace this coverage. The threat of losing these benefits with little to no notice – as the EBD Board did last summer – is of paramount concern to these members. In fact, our retirees have agreed to an increase of 10% in their premium costs if they can be assured that these benefits will remain intact.
- For all of the members, please publicly commit that the 2022 plan year decisions made by the Board of Finance should maintain the status quo on the health insurance plans until long term decisions can be made and implemented, with the participation and input of the membership.
- Although the budget surplus is one-time money, we respectfully request that you consider whether a portion of it might be used to share the burden created by the health insurance plan's problems, so that they are not shouldered entirely by the state's employees and retirees.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to our state.

Sincerely,

John Bridges  
ASEA Executive Director  
[jbridges@aseaar.org](mailto:jbridges@aseaar.org)



By: Nicholas Poole, MPA Legislative Analyst

The Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) met May 21, 2021 to discuss the changes made by Act 1004 of 2021. Act 1004 terminated the State and Public Life and Health Insurance Board, known as the EBD Board, and temporarily transferred its duties to the State Board of Finance.

Under Act 1004, the ALC committee has the final decision on rate increases and benefit changes to the health insurance plans. The sole purpose of this meeting was to bring the legislators current on the status of the health insurance plan and to provide them a roadmap of what is to come.

The ALC committee awarded a consulting contract to The Segal Group of Atlanta to make a formal report that is due in the month of October. The recommendations from The Segal Group will include plan designs, potential rate increases, and a multiyear strategic plan for the active and retired state employees' plan and public school plan. In total, both plans have a budget shortfall of over \$100 million.

The ALC committee also recommended that when the State Board of Finance finalize their recommendation, that they first report to the Personnel Committee for approval and then report to the ALC committee for final approval.

Highlights that came from the ALC meeting:

- Senator Linda Chesterfield asked, "How does Arkansas compare to surrounding states with funding the state health insurance plan? Courtney White of Milliman (actuary company for EBD) told the ALC committee that state employees pay the second most and the state pays the second least towards the employees' premiums among surrounding states.
- The State Board of Finance is reviewing the EBD Board's previous proposal of a 5% increase for all active employees, a 10% increase for all retirees' premiums, and a \$25 reduction of the wellness credit for active employees.
- Senate President Pro Tempore Jimmy Hickey said, "We are going to probably have to put money into this plan, premiums are going to have an increase, and there is going to have to be legislation to correct some of this."

Please follow ASEA on our social media accounts to receive up-to-date information on the health insurance plan.

Simply search our full name: Arkansas State Employees Association.



**93rd General Assembly  
2021 LEGISLATION UPDATE**

The 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly enacted laws concerning provisions of the retirement system that affect your participation in or benefits from the system. Below is information about those laws.

**Summary of Laws**

- Act 20 – Termination Period
- Act 365 – Member Contributions
- Act 366 – Redetermination of Benefits (COLA)
- Act 370 – Member Contributions
- Act 518 – Duration of Participation in the DROP
- Act 686 – Membership of the Board of Trustees
- Act 687 – Membership of Volunteer Firefighters and Police Officers

**Act 20 – Termination Period**

**Current Provision:** Generally, a member is not terminated from employment for retirement purposes if that person returns to employment in a position covered by the system within one hundred eighty (180) days of the person's effective date of retirement.

**New Provision:** Act 20 exempts from the termination period a member who returns to temporary employment with the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas Legislative Audit, or the Arkansas Code Revision Commission during a regular session, fiscal session, or special session.

**Act 365 – Member Contributions**

**Current Provision:** For members first hired on or after July 1, 2005, the member contribution rate is five percent (5%).

**New Provision:** Act 365 increases the member contribution rate beginning July 1, 2022. This act affects all existing and future contributory members on that date. Beginning July 1, 2022 and continuing each following fiscal year, the rate increases in increments of twenty-five hundredths of one percent (0.25%) until it reaches a maximum of seven percent (7%).

Below is a schedule of member contribution rate increases.

Effective Date	Contribution Rate
July 1, 2022	5.25%
July 1, 2023	5.50%

July 1, 2024	5.75%
July 1, 2025	6.00%
July 1, 2026	6.25%
July 1, 2027	6.50%
July 1, 2028	6.75%
July 1, 2029	7.00%

**Act 366 – Redetermination of Benefits (COLA)**

**Current Provision:** Each July 1, we redetermine the monthly benefit amount for retirees who received benefits for at least 12 calendar months. The redetermined amount or cost of living adjustment (COLA) is the preceding July 1 amount increased by three percent (3%).

**New Provision:** Act 366 changes the redetermination method for members first hired on or after July 1, 2022. This act does not affect existing retirees. For members first hired on or after July 1, 2022, the redetermined amount is the monthly benefit payable as of the preceding July 1 increased by the lesser of:

- Three percent (3%), or
- The percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earnings and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) over the one-year period ending in the December preceding the redetermination date.

The redetermined amount will not be less than the redetermined amount that we paid to the retiree in the preceding year.

**Act 370 – Final Average Compensation**

**Current Provision:** "Final average compensation" is the highest annual compensations paid to a member during any period of three (3) years of credited service.

**New Provision:** Act 370 changes the number of years used in the computation of the final average compensation (FAC) to five years for a member first hired on or after July 1, 2022. This change does not affect members first hired before that date; we will continue to compute their FAC using three years. For members first hired on or after July 1, 2022, the final average compensation is the average of the five (5) highest annual compensations paid to the member during a completed fiscal year.

**Act 518 – Duration of Participation in the DROP**

**Current Provision:** The duration of participation in Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) cannot exceed seven (7) years.

**New Provision:** Act 518 increases the maximum duration of participation in the DROP to ten (10) years effective March 31, 2021. It permits an immediate continuation of service for current DROP participants. If you are an active participant on the effective date of the change, you are eligible to remain in the

DROP for up to 10 years. This change does not affect former DROP participants who reached the 7-year maximum before the effective date of the act.

Act 518 does not change any DROP provisions other than the maximum duration. The eligibility requirements, election to participate, amount of benefit, contribution rate, and interest remain the same.

If you reach the 10-year maximum duration, the requirement to separate from service remains the same. When your participation ends, you must elect to receive the balance in your DROP account as a lump sum or as a monthly benefit, and we also begin paying your annuity benefit in regular monthly amounts.

**Act 686 – Membership of the Board of Trustees**

**Current Provision:** The APERS Board of Trustees consists of nine (9) trustees. The 9 trustees include the following members:

- The Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration as ex officio members, and
- Three (3) members who are state employees and three (3) members who are nonstate employees appointed by the Governor.

**New Provision:** The board will consist of thirteen (13) trustees including the following members:

- The Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration,
- Three (3) members who are state employees and three (3) members who are nonstate employees appointed by the Governor,
- Two (2) members who retired from the system including one (1) who is a retired law enforcement officer to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and
- Two (2) members who retired from the system including one (1) who is a retired law enforcement officer to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Act 687 – Membership of Volunteer Firefighters and Police Officers**

**Current Provision:** Only volunteer firefighters participating in a local firemen’s pension fund are permitted to be members of APERS at the same time.

**New Provision:** Volunteer firefighters and volunteer police officers covered by the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) also are permitted to be members of APERS at the same time.

**Legislation Questions**

If you have a general question about legislation, please submit your question through the contact page on our website. If you have a specific question about legislation regarding your individual member account, please send us a secure message in the member self-service (MSS) portal.

**Are your friends also retired state employees?**

Tell them how we've helped save your retirement and insurance and to JOIN ASEA!  
 Retiree membership is only \$24/yr. or lifetime membership is a one-time payment of \$200.

**Retiree member benefits:**

- **Retirement planning** - We attend legislative, APERS and EBD meetings to inform you of any news that affects you. We helped keep your 3% COLA and protected your Rx benefit in 2019. We alert you to possible changes to your benefits, and work with legislators and the administration to help ensure your benefits, such as health insurance and pharmacy, are protected.
- **Benevolent fund** - Our fund assists members' survivors with up to \$1,000 paid upon the member's death. See our website for more: [www.aseaar.org](http://www.aseaar.org).
- **Scholarships** - Each year ASEA awards scholarships to members who are employed by the state. Also eligible are their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, stepchildren, or legally adopted children.
- **Retail discounts** - Our extensive network of discounts can help save you money at amusement parks, gyms, retail stores, hotels, restaurants, and more!
- **Members-only communication** - We keep you informed through our mailed or emailed newsletters, update emails, legislative action alert emails and texts, and have a Facebook page and Facebook Group. Search: Arkansas State Employees Association for our page, and ASEA Retiree Members for our group.

Join online: [www.aseaar.org](http://www.aseaar.org) or mail the form below and your benevolent fund form found on our website to: ASEA, Attention: Sharon Buckholts, P.O. Box 1588, Little Rock, AR 72202. Questions? Call: 501-378-0187.

**Retiree Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your newsletter mailed or emailed? Circle one: Mailed Emailed

Would you like to receive our retiree update emails regarding news such as health insurance, COLA, and important legislation? Circle one: Yes No

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a check payable to ASEA with this application for either the \$24 or the \$200, and your benevolent form from our website. If we don't receive these items within 30 days, we'll have to delete you from our database, and you will lose your benevolent fund. If you've missed a due date or have any questions, please call us and ask for Sharon Buckholts: 501-378-0187.**

Smith, Stu(R)	Makes various changes to the Teacher Retirement System with regard to reciprocal service in alternate retirement plans.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement
<b>Bill History:</b>	03-23-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 427)
Warren, Les(R) Sample, Bill(R)	Changes the maximum duration of participation in the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System Deferred Retirement Option Plan from seven to 10 years.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-01-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 518)
Warren, Les(R) Sample, Bill(R)	Redefines the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, adding four members who retired from the system and requiring two of the three existing nonstate employees to be a mayor and a county judge.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	Failed on Senate Floor
Warren, Les(R) Sample, Bill(R)	Changes the composition of the APERS Board, requiring two of the Governor's nonstate employee appointments to be one current county judge and one mayor. Adds four legislative
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	appointees; two must be retired law enforcement officers.
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-13-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 666)
Warren, Les(R)	Changes the calculation of reciprocal service using deferred service credit for determining eligibility to receive a monthly retirement benefit under each reciprocal system within the Public Employee Retirement Systems.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-14-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 711)
Lundstrum, Robin(R) Rapert, Jason(R)	Requires new measures and other policy changes proposed by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board to be presented to the House and Senate Insurance Committees for review and approval; makes other changes.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	EBD Board (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	Did not run
Warren, Les(R) Hammer, Kim(R)	Provides for calculation of APERS final average compensation for persons first hired on/after July 1, 2022 on a five-year average basis, and for persons first hired before July 1, 2022 on a 3-year average basis.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement
<b>Bill History:</b>	03-15-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 370)
Warren, Les(R)	Provides a formula for redetermination of benefits under APERS that indexes the increase to the Consumer Price Index or increases the benefit by three percent, whichever is lesser. Applies to persons hired on or after July 1, 2022.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	03-15-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 366)
Warren, Les(R)	Under the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, provides that the contribution rate for persons first hired on or after July 1, 2005 shall be increased in increments 0.25% per fiscal year so long as the contribution rate does not exceed seven percent.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement (Support)

<b>Bill History:</b>	03-15-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 365)
Wardlaw, Jeff(R)	Increases the maximum monthly state contribution to the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program from \$450 to \$550.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	EBD Board (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-12-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 654)
Wallace, David(R) Wooten, Jim(R)	Makes numerous technical changes to the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act and the catastrophic leave program.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	State Employees
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-06-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 573)
Sample, Bill(R)	Changes the termination period regarding eligibility under the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System for persons returning to temporary employment with the Arkansas Legislature or related public entities during a legislative session.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	Retirement
<b>Bill History:</b>	02-03-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 20)
Sullivan, Dan(R) Wornack, Richard(R)	Prohibits a public employer, including legislators, Constitutional Officers and agencies from penalizing, restricting or prohibiting an employee's political activities or expression of views subject to civil penalties.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	State Employees
<b>Bill History:</b>	02-08-21 S Amendment 1 adopted
Ballinger, Bob(R) Dotson, Jim(R)	Prohibits some public employers from recognizing a labor union or other public employee association as a bargaining agent of public employees. Exempts local governments, firefighters, law enforcement, and public transit employees.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	State Employees (Oppose)
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-08-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 612)
Hammer, Kim(R) Wooten, Jim(R)	Requires certain agencies to identify positions that are critical-need and required to be staffed 24 hours each day. Adds critical-need employees to annual leave and unused leave policies that apply to emergency personnel.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	State Employees
<b>Bill History:</b>	03-17-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 378)
Teague, Larry(D)	Requires legislative review of significant changes to a plan design of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board, which must be brought to the Insurance and Commerce Committees in quarterly reporting.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	EBD Board (Support)
<b>Bill History:</b>	Did not run on the House side.
Hickey, Jimmy(R) Wardlaw, Jeff(R)	Abolishes the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board and transfers its duties, functions, property, personnel, etc. to the State Board of Finance; duties administered by the Employee Benefits Division shall remain with the division.
<b>Track Name(s):</b>	EBD Board (Neutral)
<b>Bill History:</b>	04-28-21 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 1004)
<b>Total Bills: 17</b>	



**Congratulations to all the 2020 John F. Motes scholarship winners!**

We had a lot of deserving applicants, and are awarding more scholarships than ever before. We hope to continue to increase the number of winners over time each year.

Thank you to all who applied, we wish you the best!



**ALLISON JOHNSON** is the daughter of Nancy Darlene Priest who works at Petit Jean Park. Allison plans to attend Arkansas Tech with a major in Mathematics Education.

**JADA LAWSON** is the daughter of James Lawson who works for the Department of Commerce ADWS. Jada plans to attend U of A Fayetteville with a major in Biomedical Engineering.

**TRISH A INGE** is a member of ASEA who plans to attend UACCM with a major in AAS Business.

**HAYDEN WEBER**, is the grandson of Susan Kay Hardcastle who works for Arkansas Worker's Compensation. Hayden plans to attend U of A Fayetteville with a major in Secondary Education.

**TAYLOR MICHELE TIPPIN** is the granddaughter of Freeda Jean Banning who works for Yell County Department of Health and Human Services. Taylor plans to attend Harding University with a major in Business Administration (MBA/Pre-Law).

**MADISON CANTRELL** is the daughter of Regina Cantrell who works for the Department of Finance and Administration. Madison plans to attend U of A Fort Smith with a major in Elementary Education.

**ETHAN STANLEY** is the son of Clint Wesley Stanley who works at the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Ethan plans to attend Williams Baptist University with a major in Mid-Level Mathematics and Science.

**NOAH DIETER** is the son of Curtis Lee Dieter who works for the Arkansas Department of Health. Noah plans to attend U of A Fort Smith with a major in Engineering.

**LANDEN WEST** is the granddaughter of Tammi R. Nowlin who works for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. Landen plans to attend U of A Monticello with a major in Nursing.

**HANNAH ANNETTE HESTER** is the granddaughter of Marcia Annette Hatfield who works for the Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Motor Vehicles. Hannah plans to attend ASU BeeBe with a major in Science/Nursing.

**ANDREA LAFAVE** is the daughter of Deborah LaFave who works for the Department of Finance and Administration. Andrea plans to attend UCA with a major in Nursing.

**ASHTON TOLAND** is the stepdaughter of Jared Trenton Daniels who works for the Garland County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (18th JDE). Ashton plans to attend U of A Fayetteville with a major in Nursing.

**BENJAMIN SATTERFIELD** is the son of Marianne Wright who works for the General's Office. Benjamin plans to attend Hendrix and will decide his major at a later date.

**FAITH SHARP** is the daughter of Tara D. Sharp who works for the Division of Community Correction. Faith plans to attend U of A Fayetteville with a major in Animal Science.

**HAYDYN HUDNALL** is the grandson of Perry Lee Linder, Jr. who works for the Livestock and Poultry Commission. Haydyn plans to attend UCA with a major in Pre-Law.

**KHYNNEDI MURRY** is the daughter of Kiala Murry who works for the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services. Khynnedi plans to attend National Park College with a major in Pre-Engineering.

**ARIELLE THOMAS** is the daughter of Shelvey Bailey who works for the Arkansas Department of Corrections. Arielle plans to attend UAPB with a major in Human Science Education.

**UPDATE!**

The 2022 John F. Motes Scholarships can be applied for in the Summer of 2022 (specific dates to come) to allow for the legislative session.

The scholarship winners will be announced in time for them to attend the Arkansas college or university of their choice in the Fall of 2022 or after..

We will keep you posted and will give you the dates once we've finalized them.

**Congratulations to all graduates!**

**Board Officers**

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ASEA News (ISSN: 1045-7380) is published by Arkansas State Employees Association, Inc., with an editorial office at 1301 West 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$4 per year, available to members only, included in membership dues. Second-class postage paid at Little Rock, AR., Postmaster. Publication number: 07-9310. Please send change of address to: ASEA News, P.O. Box 1588, Little Rock, AR 72203. Telephone: 501-378-0187 Fax: 501-378-0113. John Bridges, Publisher, Shauna Carpenter, Editor/Designer.