

By: Representative Manning

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 54

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE FULL COST OF THE PREMIUMS FOR THE STATE
 3 EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES SHALL
 4 BE PAID FROM FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OR
 5 THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO AMEND
 6 SECTIONS 25-15-256 AND 25-15-261, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 7 PROVIDE THAT THE FULL COST OF THE PREMIUMS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
 8 EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR RETIRED SCHOOL AND LIBRARY
 9 EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
 10 SYSTEM SHALL BE PAID FROM FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
 11 RETIREMENT SYSTEM; TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-11-101, 25-11-123 AND
 12 25-13-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT PAYMENT OF
 13 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS IS AMONG THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE
 14 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL
 15 RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THOSE SYSTEMS; TO AMEND
 16 SECTIONS 25-15-3 AND 25-15-251, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
 17 CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
 18 PURPOSES.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

20 SECTION 1. Section 25-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 21 amended as follows:

22 25-15-15. (1) * * * The state shall provide fifty percent
 23 (50%) of the cost of the above life insurance plan and one hundred
 24 percent (100%) of the cost of the above health insurance plan for
 25 all active full-time employees, and the employees shall be given
 26 the opportunity to purchase coverage for their eligible
 27 dependents * * *. The premiums for such dependent coverage and
 28 the employee's * * * share of the premiums for his life insurance
 29 coverage shall be deducted from the employee's salary by the

30 employing agency, department or institution * * *, which
31 deductions, together with the * * * share of * * * life insurance
32 premiums of such employing agency, department or institution * * *
33 from funds appropriated to or authorized to be expended by such
34 employing agency, department or institution * * *, shall be
35 deposited directly into a depository bank or special fund in the
36 State Treasury, as determined by the department. These funds and
37 interest earned on these funds may be used for the disbursement of
38 claims and shall be exempt from the appropriation process.

39 (2) The department * * * may establish and enforce late
40 charges and interest penalties or other penalties for the purpose
41 of requiring the prompt payment of all premiums for life and
42 health insurance permitted under this article. All funds in
43 excess of the amount needed for disbursement of claims shall be
44 deposited in a special fund in the State Treasury to be known as
45 the State Employees Insurance Fund. The State Treasurer shall
46 invest all funds in the State Employees Insurance Fund and all
47 interest earned shall be credited to the State Employees Insurance
48 Fund. Such funds shall be placed with one or more depositories of
49 the state and invested on the first day such funds are available
50 for investment in certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements
51 or in United States Treasury bills or as otherwise authorized by
52 law for the investment of Public Employees' Retirement System
53 funds, as long as such investment is made from competitive
54 offering and at the highest and best market rate obtainable
55 consistent with any available investment alternatives; however,
56 such investments shall not be made in shares of stock, common or
57 preferred, or in any other investments which would mature more
58 than one (1) year from the date of investment. The department
59 shall have the authority to draw from this fund periodically such
60 funds as are necessary to operate the self-insurance plan or to
61 pay to the insurance carrier the cost of operation of this plan.

62 It is the purpose of this section to limit the amount of
63 participation by the state to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of
64 the life insurance program for active full-time employees and not
65 to limit the contracting for additional benefits where the cost
66 will be paid in full by the employee. The state shall not share
67 in the cost of * * * coverage for retired employees except as
68 provided in subsection (4) of this section.

69 (3) The department shall also provide for the creation of an
70 Insurance Reserve Fund and funds therein shall be invested by the
71 State Treasurer with all interest earned credited to the State
72 Employees Insurance Fund.

73 (4) The full cost of the premiums for the health insurance
74 plan for retired employees shall be paid from funds in the Public
75 employees' Retirement System, or from funds in the Mississippi
76 Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System in the case of retired
77 members of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. The Public
78 employees' Retirement System and the Highway Safety Patrol
79 Retirement System shall pay to the department on a monthly basis
80 the amount of the premiums as determined by the department.

81 (5) Any retired employee electing to purchase retired
82 life * * * insurance shall have the full cost of such
83 insurance * * * deducted monthly from his * * * retirement * * *
84 check or shall be directly billed for the cost of the premiums.

85 SECTION 2. Section 25-15-256, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
86 amended as follows:

87 25-15-256. The state shall provide annually, by line item in
88 the Mississippi Library Commission appropriation bill, such funds
89 to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of insurance under
90 the Public School Employees Health Insurance Plan created under

91 Article 7, Chapter 15, Title 25, Mississippi Code of 1972, for all
92 full-time library staff members in each public library in
93 Mississippi. The commission shall allot to each public library a
94 sufficient amount of those funds appropriated to pay the costs of
95 insurance for eligible employees. Any funds so appropriated by
96 line item which are not expended during the fiscal year for which
97 such funds were appropriated shall be carried forward for the same
98 purposes during the next succeeding fiscal year. If any premiums
99 for health insurance and/or late charges and interest penalties
100 are not paid by a public library in a timely manner, as defined by
101 the department, the Mississippi Library Commission, upon notice by
102 the department, shall immediately withhold all subsequent
103 disbursements of funds to that public library.

104 Any local contribution to the cost of insurance paid by a
105 public library for eligible employees during the fiscal year
106 immediately preceding July 1, 1994, shall be converted into salary
107 supplements or fringe benefits distributed among all full-time
108 employees of the library.

109 The full cost of the premiums for the health insurance plan
110 for retired library staff members who are members of the public
111 employees' Retirement System shall be paid from funds in the
112 Public Employees' Retirement System. The Public Employees'
113 Retirement System shall pay to the department on a monthly basis
114 the amount of the premiums as determined by the department.

115 SECTION 3. Section 25-15-261, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
116 amended as follows:

117 25-15-261. (1) Each eligible employee may participate in
118 the program by signing up for the plan at the time of employment.

119 Each eligible employee who declines coverage under the plan must

120 sign a waiver of coverage. After acceptance in the plan, the
121 employee may cease his or her participation by filing a specific
122 disclaimer with the department. Forms for this purpose shall be
123 prescribed and issued by the department. All eligible employees
124 will be eligible to participate in this self-insured plan on the
125 effective date of the plan or on the date on which they are
126 employed by the school district, if later, provided they make any
127 necessary contributions as set out hereunder. Prior to the
128 initial enrollment cutoff date for the plan, all participating
129 employees who are currently covered under the Public School
130 Employees Health Insurance Plan or under a group health plan
131 sponsored by any participating school district or community/junior
132 college district shall be eligible for full benefits under this
133 plan on the first day of his or her participation regardless of
134 any preexisting health condition or injury. All other
135 participating employees shall have coverage of preexisting illness
136 within one (1) year after enrollment in the plan. Spouses of
137 employees, unmarried dependent children from birth to age nineteen
138 (19) years, unmarried dependent children who are full-time
139 students up to age twenty-three (23) years, and physically or
140 mentally handicapped children, regardless of age, are eligible
141 under this plan as of the date the employee becomes eligible.

142 If both spouses are eligible employees who participate in the
143 plan, the benefits shall apply individually to each spouse by
144 virtue of his or her participation in the plan. If those spouses
145 also have one or more eligible dependents participating in the
146 plan, the cost of their dependents shall be calculated at
147 a special family plan rate. The cost for participation by the
148 dependents shall be paid by the spouse who elects to carry such

149 dependents under his or her coverage. The special family plan
150 rate shall apply also if the public school, community/junior
151 college district or public library employee's spouse is a covered
152 eligible employee under the State Employees Health Insurance Plan.

153 (2) The state shall annually provide one hundred percent
154 (100%) of the cost of the above insurance plan for all district
155 employees who work no less than twenty (20) hours during each week
156 and regular nonstudent school bus drivers. Where federal funding
157 is allowable to defray, in full or in part, the cost of
158 participation in the program by district employees who work no
159 less than twenty (20) hours during each week and regular
160 nonstudent school bus drivers, whose salaries are paid, in full or
161 in part, by federal funds, the allowance under this section shall
162 be reduced to the extent of such federal funding. Where the use
163 of federal funds is allowable but not available, it is the intent
164 of the Legislature that school districts contribute the cost of
165 participation for such employees from local funds, except that
166 parent fees for child nutrition programs shall not be increased to
167 cover such cost.

168 Any local contribution to the cost of insurance paid by the
169 school district during the fiscal year immediately preceding July
170 1, 1994, shall be converted into salary supplements or fringe
171 benefits in that school district for certificated employees and
172 teacher assistants. Any local contribution to the cost of
173 insurance paid by the school district for noncertificated
174 employees during the fiscal year immediately preceding July 1,
175 1994, shall be converted into salary supplements or fringe
176 benefits in that school district.

177 (3) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the

178 community/junior college appropriation bill, such funds to pay one
179 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the plan for all
180 community/junior college district employees who work no less than
181 twenty (20) hours during each week.

182 Where the use of federal funding is allowable to defray, in
183 full or in part, the cost of participation in the insurance plan
184 by community/junior college district employees who work no less
185 than twenty (20) hours during each week, whose salaries are paid,
186 in full or in part, by federal funds, the allowance under this
187 section shall be reduced to the extent of the federal funding.

188 Where the use of federal funds is allowable but not available, it
189 is the intent of the Legislature that community/junior college
190 districts contribute the cost of participation for such employees
191 from local funds.

192 Any community/junior college district may contribute to the
193 cost of coverage for any district employee from local
194 community/junior college district funds, and any public school
195 district may contribute to the cost of coverage for any district
196 employee from nonminimum program funds. Any part of the cost of
197 such coverage for participating employees of public school
198 districts and public community/junior college districts that is
199 not paid by the state or by the districts shall be paid by the
200 participating employees, which shall be deducted from the salaries
201 of the employees in a manner determined by the department.

202 Any funds appropriated for the cost of insurance by line item
203 in the community/junior colleges appropriation bill which are not
204 expended during the fiscal year for which such funds were
205 appropriated shall be carried forward for the same purposes during
206 the next succeeding fiscal year.

207 Any local contribution to the cost of insurance paid by a
208 community/junior college district for eligible employees during
209 the fiscal year immediately preceding July 1, 1994, shall be
210 converted into salary supplements or fringe benefits distributed
211 among all full-time employees of the district.

212 (4) The state shall not share in the cost of coverage for
213 retired employees except as follows: The full cost of the
214 premiums for the health insurance plan for retired employees who
215 are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System shall be
216 paid from funds in the Public Employees' Retirement System. The
217 Public Employees' Retirement System shall pay to the department on
218 a monthly basis the amount of the premiums as determined by the
219 department.

220 SECTION 4. Section 25-11-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
221 amended as follows:

222 25-11-101. A retirement system is hereby established and
223 placed under the management of the board of trustees for the
224 purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits
225 under the provisions of this article for officers and employees in
226 the state service and their beneficiaries. Among the other
227 benefits provided by the retirement system is the payment of the
228 cost of the premiums for the State Employees Health Insurance Plan
229 and the Public School Employees Health Insurance Plan for retired
230 members of the retirement system who are participating in those
231 plans. The retirement system provided by Article 3 shall go into
232 operation as of the first day of the month following the effective
233 date thereof, when contributions by members shall begin and
234 benefits shall become payable.

235 This system shall be an agency of the State of Mississippi

236 having all the powers and privileges of a public corporation and
237 shall be known as the "Public Employees' Retirement System of
238 Mississippi." By such name all of its business shall be
239 transacted, all of its funds invested, and all of its cash and
240 securities and other property held; but in ordinary correspondence
241 the word "system" may be used instead of the full title. After
242 appropriation for administrative expenses and after payment of
243 investment management fees and costs, all funds of the system
244 shall be held in trust in the custody of the board of trustees as
245 funds of the beneficiaries of the trust. The Joint Legislative
246 Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review is
247 hereby authorized and directed to have performed random actuarial
248 evaluations, as necessary, of the funds and expenses of the Public
249 Employees' Retirement System and to make annual reports to the
250 Legislature on the financial soundness of the system.

251 SECTION 5. Section 25-11-123, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
252 amended as follows:

253 25-11-123. All of the assets of the system shall be credited
254 according to the purpose for which they are held to one (1) of
255 four (4) reserves; namely, the annuity savings account, the
256 annuity reserve, the employer's accumulation account, and the
257 expense account.

258 (a) Annuity savings account. In the annuity savings account
259 shall be accumulated the contributions made by members to provide
260 for their annuities, including interest thereon which shall be
261 posted monthly. Credits to and charges against the annuity
262 savings account shall be made as follows:

263 (1) Beginning July 1, 1991, the employer shall cause to
264 be deducted from the salary of each member on each and every

265 payroll of such employer for each and every payroll period seven
266 and one-fourth percent (7-1/4%) of earned compensation as defined
267 in Section 25-11-103. Future contributions shall be fixed
268 biennially by the board on the basis of the liabilities of the
269 retirement system for the various allowances and benefits as shown
270 by actuarial valuation; provided, however, that any member earning
271 at a rate less than Sixteen Dollars and Sixty-seven Cents (\$16.67)
272 per month, or Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per year, shall
273 contribute not less than One Dollar (\$1.00) per month, or Twelve
274 Dollars (\$12.00) per year.

275 (2) The deductions provided herein shall be made
276 notwithstanding that the minimum compensation provided by law for
277 any member shall be reduced thereby. Every member shall be deemed
278 to consent and agree to the deductions made and provided for
279 herein and shall receipt for his full salary or compensation, and
280 payment of salary or compensation less said deduction shall be a
281 full and complete discharge and acquittance of all claims and
282 demands whatsoever for the services rendered by such person during
283 the period covered by such payment, except as to the benefits
284 provided under Articles 1 and 3. The board shall provide by rules
285 for the methods of collection of contributions from members and
286 the employer. The board shall have full authority to require the
287 production of evidence necessary to verify the correctness of
288 amounts contributed.

289 (b) Annuity reserve. The annuity reserve shall be the
290 account representing the actuarial value of all annuities in
291 force, and to it shall be charged all annuities and all benefits
292 in lieu of annuities, payable as provided in this article. If a
293 beneficiary retired on account of disability is restored to active

294 service with a compensation not less than his average final
295 compensation at the time of his last retirement, the remainder of
296 his contributions shall be transferred from the annuity reserve to
297 the annuity savings account and credited to his individual account
298 therein, and the balance of his annuity reserve shall be
299 transferred to the employer's accumulation account.

300 (c) Employer's accumulation account. The employer's
301 accumulation account shall represent the accumulation of all
302 reserves for the payment of all retirement allowances and other
303 benefits payable from contributions made by the employer, and
304 against this account shall be charged all retirement allowances
305 and other benefits on account of members. Credits to and charges
306 against the employer's accumulation account shall be made as
307 follows:

308 (1) On account of each member there shall be paid
309 monthly into the employer's accumulation account by the employers
310 for the preceding fiscal year an amount equal to a certain
311 percentage of the total earned compensation, as defined in Section
312 25-11-103, of each member. The percentage rate of such
313 contributions shall be fixed biennially by the board on the basis
314 of the liabilities of the retirement system for the various
315 allowances and benefits as shown by actuarial valuation. Beginning
316 January 1, 1990, the rate shall be fixed at nine and three-fourths
317 percent (9-3/4%). Political subdivisions joining Article 3 of the
318 Public Employees' Retirement System after July 1, 1968, may adjust
319 the employer's contributions by agreement with the Board of
320 Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System to provide
321 service credits for any period prior to execution of the agreement
322 based upon an actuarial determination of employer's contribution

323 rates.

324 (2) On the basis of regular interest and of such
325 mortality and other tables as shall be adopted by the board of
326 trustees, the actuary engaged by the board to make each valuation
327 required by this article during the period over which the accrued
328 liability contribution is payable, immediately after making such
329 valuation, shall determine the uniform and constant percentage of
330 the earnable compensation of each member which, if contributed by
331 the employer on the basis of compensation of such member
332 throughout his entire period of membership service, would be
333 sufficient to provide for the payment of any retirement allowance
334 payable on his account for such service. The percentage rate so
335 determined shall be known as the "normal contribution rate."
336 After the accrued liability contribution has ceased to be payable,
337 the normal contribution rate shall be the percentage rate of the
338 salary of all members obtained by deducting from the total
339 liabilities on account of membership service the amount in the
340 employer's accumulation account, and dividing the remainder by one
341 percent (1%) of the present value of the prospective future
342 salaries of all members as computed on the basis of the mortality
343 and service tables adopted by the board of trustees and regular
344 interest. The normal rate of contributions shall be determined by
345 the actuary after each valuation.

346 (3) The total amount payable in each year to the
347 employer's accumulation account shall not be less than the sum of
348 the percentage rate known as the "normal contribution" rate and
349 the "accrued liability contribution" rate of the total
350 compensation earnable by all members during the preceding year,
351 provided that the payment by the employer shall be sufficient,

352 when combined with the amounts in the account, to provide the
353 allowances and other benefits chargeable to this account during
354 the year then current.

355 (4) The accrued liability contribution shall be
356 discontinued as soon as the accumulated balance in the employer's
357 accumulation account shall equal the present value, computed on
358 the basis of the normal contribution rate then in force, or the
359 prospective normal contributions to be received on account of all
360 persons who are at that time members.

361 (5) All allowances and benefits in lieu thereof, with
362 the exception of those payable on account of members who receive
363 no prior service credit, payable from contributions of the
364 employer, shall be paid from the employer's accumulation account.
365 Payment of the cost of the health insurance premiums for retired
366 members who are participating in the State Employees Health
367 Insurance Plan and the Public School Employees Health Insurance
368 Plan shall be made from funds in the employer's accumulation
369 account.

370 (6) Upon the retirement of a member, an amount equal to
371 his retirement allowance shall be transferred from the employer's
372 accumulation account to the annuity reserve.

373 (d) Expense account. The expense account shall be the
374 account to which the expenses of the administration of the system
375 shall be charged, exclusive of amounts payable as retirement
376 allowances and as other benefits provided herein. The Legislature
377 shall make annual appropriations in amounts sufficient to
378 administer the system, which shall be credited to this account.
379 There shall be transferred to the State Treasury from this
380 account, not less than once per month, an amount sufficient for

381 payment of the estimated expenses of the system for the succeeding
382 thirty (30) days. Any interest earned on the expense account
383 shall accrue to the benefit of the system. Provided, however,
384 that notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 25-11-15(10) and
385 25-11-105(f)(5)e, all expenses of the administration of the system
386 shall be paid from the interest earnings, provided the interest
387 earnings are in excess of the actuarial interest assumption as
388 determined by the board, and provided the present cost of the
389 administrative expense fee of two percent (2%) of the
390 contributions reported by the political subdivisions and
391 instrumentalities shall be reduced to one percent (1%) from and
392 after July 1, 1983, through June 30, 1984, and shall be eliminated
393 thereafter.

394 (e) Collection of contributions. The employer shall cause
395 to be deducted on each and every payroll of a member for each and
396 every payroll period, beginning subsequent to January 31, 1953,
397 the contributions payable by such member as provided in Articles 1
398 and 3.

399 The employer shall make deductions from salaries of employees
400 as provided in Articles 1 and 3 and shall transmit monthly, or at
401 such time as the board of trustees shall designate, the amount
402 specified to be deducted to the Executive Director of the Public
403 Employees' Retirement System. The executive director, after
404 making a record of all such receipts, shall deposit such amounts
405 as provided by law.

406 (f) Upon the basis of each actuarial valuation provided
407 herein, the board of trustees shall biennially determine the
408 normal contribution rate and the accrued liability contribution
409 rate as provided in this section. The sum of these two (2) rates

410 shall be known as the "employer's contribution rate." Beginning
411 on earned compensation effective January 1, 1990, the rate
412 computed as provided in this section shall be nine and
413 three-fourths percent (9-3/4%). The percentage rate of such
414 contributions shall be fixed biennially by the board on the basis
415 of the liabilities of the retirement system for the various
416 allowances and benefits as shown by actuarial valuation.
417 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the county board of
418 education, the governing authorities of separate, consolidated, or
419 municipal school districts, and all other such boards set up by
420 law which handle and disburse school funds, shall pay from local
421 tax sources one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of the total
422 employer's contribution rate of nine and three-fourths percent
423 (9-3/4%).

424 The amount payable by the employer on account of normal and
425 accrued liability contributions shall be determined by applying
426 the employer's contribution rate to the amount of compensation
427 earned by employees who are members of the system. Monthly, or at
428 such time as the board of trustees shall designate, each
429 department or agency shall compute the amount of the employer's
430 contribution payable, with respect to the salaries of its
431 employees who are members of the system, and shall cause said
432 amount to be paid to the board of trustees from the personal
433 service allotment of the amount appropriated for the operation of
434 the department or agency, or from funds otherwise available to the
435 agency, for the payment of salaries to its employees.

436 Once each year, under procedures established by the system,
437 each employer shall submit to the Public Employees' Retirement
438 System a copy of their report to Social Security of all employees'

439 earnings.

440 The board shall provide by rules for the methods of
441 collection of contributions of employers and members. The amounts
442 determined due by an agency to the various funds as specified in
443 Articles 1 and 3 are made obligations of the agency to the board
444 and shall be paid as provided herein. From and after July 1,
445 1996, under rules and regulations established by the board, all
446 employers are authorized and shall transfer all funds due to the
447 Public Employees' Retirement System electronically and shall
448 transmit any wage or other reports by computerized reporting
449 systems.

450 SECTION 6. Section 25-13-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
451 amended as follows:

452 25-13-1. There is hereby established a retirement system for
453 the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, as defined in this chapter,
454 effective July 1, 1958, under which members of the Mississippi
455 Highway Safety Patrol may retire for superannuation or may retire
456 for reason of disability, and providing benefits to widows and
457 orphans of such patrolmen. This retirement system is designed to
458 supplement and is in addition to the provisions of Sections
459 25-11-1 to 25-11-21. Under the terms of this chapter, the highway
460 safety patrolmen, as defined herein, retain all the benefits of
461 old age and survivors insurance under the federal laws
462 administered by the Department of Public Health, Education and
463 Welfare, or its successor, as provided in the federal and state
464 agreement executed on July 2, 1952, but shall not be eligible for
465 benefits under Sections 25-11-101 to 25-11-139, which is the state
466 retirement annuity plan for state employees. Another benefit
467 provided by the retirement system is the payment of the cost of

468 the premiums for the State Employees Health Insurance Plan for
469 retired members of the retirement system who are participating in
470 the plan. This chapter is a substitute for and in lieu of said
471 sections, and is designed to provide more liberal benefits for the
472 highway safety patrolmen by reason of the dangerous nature of
473 their employment.

474 SECTION 7. Section 25-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
475 amended as follows:

476 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and
477 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

478 (a) "Employee" means any person who works full time for
479 the State Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct
480 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state
481 government. This term includes legislators, employees of the
482 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state, * * *
483 full-time salaried judges and full-time district attorneys and
484 their staff and full-time compulsory school attendance officers.
485 For the purposes of this article, any "employee" making
486 contributions to the Public Employees' Retirement System or the
487 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System shall be
488 considered a full-time employee.

489 (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and
490 Administration.

491 (c) "Plan" means the State Employees Life and Health
492 Insurance Plan created under this article.

493 (d) "Fund" means the State Employees Insurance Fund set
494 up under this article.

495 (e) "Retired employee" means any person who is retired
496 under the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Mississippi

497 Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System and is receiving a
498 retirement allowance from such system.

499 SECTION 8. Section 25-15-251, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
500 amended as follows:

501 25-15-251. For the purposes of this article, the words and
502 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

503 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
504 any school district, community/junior college, public library or
505 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for
506 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children, or any regular
507 nonstudent school bus driver.

508 (b) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
509 Finance and Administration.

510 (c) "Plan" means the Public School Employees Health
511 Insurance Plan created under this article.

512 (d) "Retired employee" means any retired employee as
513 defined in this section who is enrolled on April 12, 1991, in a
514 group health insurance plan offered by the individual school
515 district or community/junior college district, and those active
516 employees who may subsequently retire from employment after April
517 12, 1991.

518 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from
519 and after July 1, 1999.