

By: Representative Moak

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT RETIRED JUDGES WHO ARE PLACED ON SENIOR STATUS MAY
3 CONTINUE TO RECEIVE STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE IF THEY WORK AS
4 SPECIAL JUDGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 25-15-15. The Department of Finance and Administration is
9 directed to study the feasibility of lowering the deductible
10 amounts for claims upon the above health insurance plan for each
11 active full-time employee and participating dependent, and shall
12 make a report to the Legislature and the Governor on or before
13 December 1, 1993. The state shall provide fifty percent (50%) of
14 the cost of the above life insurance plan and one hundred percent
15 (100%) of the cost of the above health insurance plan for all
16 active full-time employees, and the employees shall be given the
17 opportunity to purchase coverage for their eligible dependents
18 with the premiums for such dependent coverage as well as the
19 employee's fifty percent (50%) share for his life insurance
20 coverage to be deductible from the employee's salary by the
21 agency, department or institution head, which deductions, together
22 with the fifty percent (50%) share of such life insurance premiums
23 of such employing agency, department or institution head from
24 funds appropriated to or authorized to be expended by such
25 employing agency, department or institution head, shall be
26 deposited directly into a depository bank or special fund in the
27 State Treasury, as determined by the department. These funds and
28 interest earned on these funds may be used for the disbursement of

29 claims and shall be exempt from the appropriation process. The
30 Department of Finance and Administration may establish and enforce
31 late charges and interest penalties or other penalties for the
32 purpose of requiring the prompt payment of all premiums for life
33 and health insurance permitted under Chapter 15 of Title 25. All
34 funds in excess of the amount needed for disbursement of claims
35 shall be deposited in a special fund in the State Treasury to be
36 known as the State Employees Insurance Fund. The State Treasurer
37 shall invest all funds in the State Employees Insurance Fund and
38 all interest earned shall be credited to the State Employees
39 Insurance Fund. Such funds shall be placed with one or more
40 depositories of the state and invested on the first day such funds
41 are available for investment in certificates of deposit,
42 repurchase agreements or in United States Treasury bills or as
43 otherwise authorized by law for the investment of Public
44 Employees' Retirement System funds, as long as such investment is
45 made from competitive offering and at the highest and best market
46 rate obtainable consistent with any available investment
47 alternatives; however, such investments shall not be made in
48 shares of stock, common or preferred, or in any other investments
49 which would mature more than one (1) year from the date of
50 investment. The department shall have the authority to draw from
51 this fund periodically such funds as are necessary to operate the
52 self-insurance plan or to pay to the insurance carrier the cost of
53 operation of this plan, it being the purpose to limit the amount
54 of participation by the state to fifty percent (50%) of the cost
55 of the life insurance program and not to limit the contracting for
56 additional benefits where the cost will be paid in full by the
57 employee. The state shall not share in the cost of coverage for
58 retired employees.

59 The department shall also provide for the creation of an
60 Insurance Reserve Fund and funds therein shall be invested by the
61 State Treasurer with all interest earned credited to the State
62 Employees Insurance Fund.

63 Except as otherwise provided herein for senior status judges,
64 any retired employee electing to purchase retired life and health
65 insurance will have the full cost of such insurance deducted
66 monthly from his State of Mississippi retirement plan check or

67 direct billed for the cost of the premium.

68 For purposes of insurance coverage under this section, a
69 retired judge who is placed on senior status in accordance with
70 Section 9-1-107 is considered an active full-time employee if he
71 serves as a special judge in accordance with Section 9-1-105.

72 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 1999.