

By: Representative Martinson

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1278

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY
3 ELECT TO JOIN THE STATE EMPLOYEES LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN
4 IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES; TO
5 AMEND SECTION 25-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE
6 DEFINITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 25-15-103. The maximum amount of group insurance or other
11 coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one hundred
12 percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by regulations
13 promulgated by the governing board or head of any political
14 subdivision, school district, junior college district,
15 institution, department or agency named in Sections 25-15-101 and
16 25-15-103, but the life insurance for each employee shall not
17 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of
18 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in
19 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount
20 may be for accidental death; accident, health and salary
21 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty
22 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by
23 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax
24 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room
25 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and
26 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in
27 this paragraph on the amount of group insurance and other coverage
28 which employers may obtain for their employees shall not be

29 applicable to municipalities.

30 Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent (100%)
31 medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of
32 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'
33 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through
34 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan
35 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by
36 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and
37 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying
38 the entire costs thereof. Any such employee who retires after
39 July 1, 1999, may elect to join the State Employees Life and
40 Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and coverages as
41 provided for retired employees in Sections 25-15-9 and
42 25-15-15.

43 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,
44 junior college districts, institutions, departments or agencies
45 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group
46 coverage plan authorized by these sections, any of the employees
47 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional
48 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies
49 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing
50 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary
51 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the
52 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire
53 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by
54 the employee.

55 A municipality may provide group life insurance coverage for
56 all or specified groups of its public employees and group
57 hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their
58 dependents, and the municipality may pay the total of the cost of
59 all benefits under this section.

60 SECTION 2. Section 25-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:

62 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and
63 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

64 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
65 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct

66 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state
67 government. This shall include legislators, employees of the
68 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state and
69 "employees" shall include full-time salaried judges and full-time
70 district attorneys and their staff and full-time compulsory school
71 attendance officers. For the purposes of this article, any
72 "employee" making contributions to the State of Mississippi
73 retirement plan shall be considered a full-time employee.

74 (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and
75 Administration.

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

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

80 (e) "Retired employee" means any person who is retired
81 and is receiving a retirement allowance under the Public
82 Employees' Retirement System, including a retired employee of a
83 local institution, department or agency as provided in Section
84 25-15-103.

85 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
86 and after July 1, 1999.