

By: Representative Reynolds

To: Insurance;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1436

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 25-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT  
6 CERTAIN ELECTED STATE, DISTRICT OR COUNTY OFFICIALS MAY  
7 PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN;  
8 TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE  
9 DEFINITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 25-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and  
14 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

15 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for  
16 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct  
17 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state  
18 government. This shall include legislators, employees of the  
19 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state and  
20 "employees" shall include full-time salaried judges and full-time  
21 district attorneys and their staff and full-time compulsory school  
22 attendance officers. For the purposes of this article, any  
23 "employee" making contributions to the State of Mississippi  
24 retirement plan shall be considered a full-time employee.

25 (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and  
26 Administration.

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

29 (d) "Fund" means the State Employees Insurance Fund set

30 up under this article.

31 (e) "Retired employee" means any person who is retired  
32 and is receiving a retirement allowance under the Public  
33 Employees' Retirement System, including a retired employee of a  
34 local institution, department or agency as provided in Section  
35 25-15-103. The term "retired employee" includes an elected state,  
36 district or county official as provided in Section 25-15-14, as  
37 amended in House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_, 1999 Regular Session.

38 SECTION 2. Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
39 amended as follows:

40 25-15-103. The maximum amount of group insurance or other  
41 coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one hundred  
42 percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by regulations  
43 promulgated by the governing board or head of any political  
44 subdivision, school district, junior college district,  
45 institution, department or agency named in Sections 25-15-101 and  
46 25-15-103, but the life insurance for each employee shall not  
47 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of  
48 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in  
49 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount  
50 may be for accidental death; accident, health and salary  
51 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty  
52 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by  
53 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax  
54 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room  
55 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and  
56 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in  
57 this paragraph on the amount of group insurance and other coverage  
58 which employers may obtain for their employees shall not be  
59 applicable to municipalities.

60 Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent (100%)  
61 medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of  
62 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'

63 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through  
64 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan  
65 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by  
66 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and  
67 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying  
68 the entire costs thereof. Any such employee who retires after  
69 July 1, 1999, may elect to join the State Employees Life and  
70 Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and coverages as  
71 provided for retired employees under Sections 25-15-9 and  
72 25-15-15.

73 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,  
74 junior college districts, institutions, departments or agencies  
75 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group  
76 coverage plan authorized by these sections, any of the employees  
77 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional  
78 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies  
79 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing  
80 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary  
81 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the  
82 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire  
83 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by  
84 the employee.

85 The municipality may provide group life insurance coverage  
86 for all or specified groups of its public employees and group  
87 hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their  
88 dependents, and the municipality may pay the total of the cost of  
89 all benefits under this section.

90 SECTION 3. Section 25-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
91 amended as follows:

92 25-15-14. Any elected state or district official who does  
93 not run for reelection or who is defeated before being entitled to  
94 receive a retirement allowance shall be eligible to continue to  
95 participate in the State Employees Life and Health Insurance Plan

96 under the same conditions and coverages for retired employees.  
97 Any elected state, district or county official who does not run  
98 for reelection after July 1, 1999, or who is defeated before being  
99 entitled to receive a retirement allowance after July 1, 1999,  
100 shall be eligible to participate in the State Employees Life and  
101 Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and coverages for  
102 retired employees.

103 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104 and after July 1, 1999.