

By: Senator(s) Rayborn

To: County Affairs;
Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2986

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE THAT SHERIFFS WHO DO NOT RUN FOR REELECTION OR WHO ARE
 3 DEFEATED BEFORE BEING ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE
 4 SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE
 5 EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-103,
 6 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW SHERIFFS WHO DO NOT RUN FOR
 7 REELECTION OR WHO ARE DEFEATED BEFORE BECOMING ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
 8 A RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL PUBLIC
 9 GROUP HEALTH, ACCIDENT AND HOSPITALIZATION BENEFIT PLANS TO THE
 10 SAME EXTENT AS RETIRED LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES; AND FOR RELATED
 11 PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. Section 25-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 14 amended as follows:

15 25-15-14. Any elected state, * * * district official or
 16 sheriff who does not run for reelection or who is defeated before
 17 being entitled to receive a retirement allowance shall be eligible
 18 to continue to participate in the state employees health insurance
 19 plan under the same conditions and coverages for retired
 20 employees.

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

23 25-15-103. The maximum amount of group insurance or other
 24 coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one hundred
 25 percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by regulations
 26 promulgated by the governing board or head of any political
 27 subdivision, school district, junior college district,
 28 institution, department or agency named in Sections 25-15-101 and
 29 25-15-103, but the life insurance for each employee shall not
 30 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of

31 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in
32 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount
33 may be for accidental death; accident, health and salary
34 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty
35 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by
36 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax
37 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room
38 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and
39 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in
40 this paragraph on the amount of group insurance and other coverage
41 which employers may obtain for their employees shall not be
42 applicable to municipalities.

43 Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent (100%)
44 medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of
45 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'
46 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through
47 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan
48 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by
49 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and
50 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying
51 the entire costs thereof.

52 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,
53 junior college districts, institutions, departments or agencies
54 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group
55 coverage plan authorized by said sections, any of the employees
56 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional
57 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies
58 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing
59 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary
60 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the
61 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire
62 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by
63 the employee. Any sheriff who does not run for reelection or who
64 is defeated before being entitled to receive a retirement
65 allowance shall be eligible to continue to participate as a member
66 of the group plan for health, accident and hospitalization
67 benefits under the same conditions and coverages as retired

68 employees.

69 The municipality may provide group life insurance coverage
70 for all or specified groups of its public employees and group
71 hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their
72 dependents, and the municipality may pay the total of the cost of
73 all benefits under this section.

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