

By: Stringer

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 569

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-15-3 AND 25-15-13, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN RETIRED PUBLIC SCHOOL AND
3 STATE EMPLOYEES MAY ENROLL IN THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LIFE
4 AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN DURING A ONE-YEAR OPEN ENROLLMENT
5 PERIOD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and
10 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

11 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
12 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct
13 payment from a department, agency or institution of the State
14 Government and any person who works full time for any school
15 district, community/junior college, public library or
16 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for
17 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children or any regular
18 nonstudent bus driver. This shall include legislators, employees
19 of the 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 and School Employees Life
28 and Health Insurance Plan created under this article.

29 (d) "Fund" means the State and School Employees
30 Insurance Fund set up under this article.

31 (e) "Retiree" means any employee retired under the
32 Mississippi retirement plan, including those retired employees who
33 enroll in the plan during the open enrollment period provided in
34 Section 25-15-13.

35 (f) "Board" means the State and School Employees Health
36 Insurance Management Board created under Section 25-15-303.

37 SECTION 2. Section 25-15-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
38 amended as follows:

39 25-15-13. Each eligible employee may participate in the
40 plan by signing up for the plan at the time of employment. Each
41 eligible employee who declines coverage under the plan must sign a
42 waiver of coverage. After acceptance in the plan, the employee
43 may cease his or her participation by filing a specific disclaimer
44 with the board. Forms for this purpose shall be prescribed and
45 issued by the board. All eligible employees will be eligible to
46 participate in the plan on the effective date of the plan or on
47 the date on which they are employed by the state, whichever is
48 later, provided they make the necessary contributions as provided
49 in this article. Spouses of employees, unmarried dependent
50 children from birth to age nineteen (19) years, unmarried
51 dependent children who are full-time students up to age
52 twenty-five (25) years, and physically or mentally handicapped
53 children, regardless of age, are eligible under the plan as of the

54 date the employee becomes eligible. If both spouses are eligible
55 employees who participate in the plan, the benefits shall apply
56 individually to each spouse by virtue of his or her participation
57 in the plan. If those spouses also have one or more eligible
58 dependents participating in the plan, the cost of their dependents
59 shall be calculated at a special family plan rate. The cost for
60 participation by the dependents shall be paid by the spouse who
61 elects to carry such dependents under his or her coverage. The
62 board shall provide for an open enrollment period beginning July
63 1, 2000, and ending July 1, 2001, for those employees who retired
64 before April 12, 1991.

65 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2000.