

By: Hyde-Smith

To: Finance

## SENATE BILL NO. 2970

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 sheriff  
16 who does not run for reelection or who is defeated before being  
17 entitled to receive a retirement allowance shall be eligible to  
18 continue to participate in the State and School Employees Health  
19 Insurance 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. Any sheriff who does not run for  
52 reelection or who is defeated before being entitled to receive a  
53 retirement allowance shall be eligible to continue to participate  
54 as a member of the group plan for health, accident and  
55 hospitalization benefits under the same conditions and coverages  
56 as retired employees.

57 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,  
58 junior college districts, institutions, departments or agencies  
59 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group  
60 coverage plan authorized by said sections, any of the employees  
61 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional  
62 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies  
63 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing  
64 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary  
65 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the  
66 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire  
67 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by

68 the employee.

69 Said 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, 2000.