

By: Representatives Clarke, Banks, Flaggs,
Rushing

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 894

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES' SPOUSES TO BUY BACK INTO THE
3 STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 25-15-13. Each eligible employee may participate in the
8 plan by signing up for the plan at the time of employment. Each
9 eligible employee who declines coverage under the plan must sign a
10 waiver of coverage. After acceptance in the plan, the employee
11 may cease his or her participation by filing a specific disclaimer
12 with the board. Forms for this purpose shall be prescribed and
13 issued by the board. All eligible employees will be eligible to
14 participate in the plan on the effective date of the plan or on
15 the date on which they are employed by the state, whichever is
16 later, provided they make the necessary contributions as provided
17 in this article. Spouses of employees, unmarried dependent
18 children from birth to age nineteen (19) years, unmarried
19 dependent children who are full-time students up to age
20 twenty-five (25) years, and physically or mentally handicapped
21 children, regardless of age, are eligible under the plan as of the
22 date the employee becomes eligible. If both spouses are eligible
23 employees who participate in the plan, the benefits shall apply
24 individually to each spouse by virtue of his or her participation
25 in the plan. If those spouses also have one or more eligible
26 dependents participating in the plan, the cost of their dependents
27 shall be calculated at a special family plan rate. The cost for



28 participation by the dependents shall be paid by the spouse who
29 elects to carry such dependents under his or her coverage. Any
30 spouse of a retired employee may participate in the plan. If such
31 spouse is dropped from the plan by the retired employee, the
32 spouse may buy back into the plan under the rules and regulations
33 promulgated by the State and School Employees Health Insurance
34 Management Board.

35 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2001.

