

By: Representative Stringer

To: Insurance;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1210

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, 2001, and ending July 1, 2002, 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, 2001.