

By: Senator(s) Doxey

To: Insurance;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2254

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-15-3 AND 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS IN THE
3 STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

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

8 **[Through June 30 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**
9 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**
10 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

11 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words
12 and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

13 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
14 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct
15 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state
16 government and any person who works full time for any school
17 district, community/junior college, public library or
18 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for
19 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children or any regular
20 nonstudent bus driver, and members of the school board of any
21 school district. This shall include legislators, employees of the
22 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state and
23 "employees" shall include full-time salaried judges and full-time
24 district attorneys and their staff and full-time compulsory school
25 attendance officers. For the purposes of this article, any
26 "employee" making contributions to the State of Mississippi
27 retirement plan shall be considered a full-time employee.

28 (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and
29 Administration.

30 (c) "Plan" means the State and School Employees Life
31 and Health Insurance Plan created under this article.

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

34 (e) "Retiree" means any employee retired under the
35 Mississippi retirement plan.

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

38 **[From and after July 1 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**
39 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**
40 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

41 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and
42 phrases used in this section shall have the following meanings:

43 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
44 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct
45 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state
46 government, and any person who works full time for any school
47 district, community/junior college, public library,
48 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for
49 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children, or any regular
50 nonstudent bus driver, and members of the school board of any
51 school district. This term includes legislators, employees of the
52 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state,
53 full-time salaried judges and full-time district attorneys and
54 their staff, and full-time compulsory school attendance officers.
55 For the purposes of this article, any "employee" making
56 contributions to the Public Employees' Retirement System or the
57 Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System shall be considered a
58 full-time employee.

59 (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and
60 Administration.

61 (c) "Plan" means the State and School Employees Life
62 and Health Insurance Plan created under this article.

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

65 (e) "Board" means the State and School Employees Health
66 Insurance Management Board created under Section 25-15-303.

67 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
68 amended as follows:

69 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school
70 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount
71 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)
72 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in
73 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as
74 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the
75 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which
76 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods
77 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall
78 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible
79 for any * * * retirement * * * benefits, however, any member of
80 the school board may elect to enroll in the State and School
81 Employees Health Insurance Plan created under Section 25-15-3 et
82 seq. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary expenses
83 and mileage in attending meetings of the school board. In
84 addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for
85 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of
86 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board
87 training session or at regional and national education meetings,
88 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board
89 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be
90 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this
91 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section
92 25-3-41.

93 Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by
94 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school
95 district involved against the funds available for payment of the
96 administrative expense of the district.

97 (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent
98 (20%) or more of the meetings of the school board during a
99 calendar year, except for absences caused by required military
100 duty, the member must reimburse the school district that portion
101 of the total salary paid to the member that year which is
102 proportionate to the number of meetings missed by the member in
103 relation to the total number of school board meetings held during
104 that year. For purposes of this subsection, consideration may be
105 given only to meetings of which public notice is required.

106 (b) Before February 1 of each year, the president of
107 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board
108 of Education containing the names of any members of the school
109 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the school board
110 meetings during the preceding calendar year.

111 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
112 and after July 1, 2005.