

## **Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 493**

**TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

### **AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

8           **SECTION 1.** Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:  
10           25-15-103. (1) The maximum amount of group insurance or  
11 other coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one  
12 hundred percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by  
13 regulations promulgated by the governing board or head of any  
14 political subdivision, school district, junior college district,  
15 institution, department or agency named in Section 25-15-101 and  
16 this section, but the life insurance for each employee shall not  
17 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of  
18 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in  
19 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount  
20 may be for accidental death \* \* \*l accident, health and salary  
21 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty  
22 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by  
23 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax  
24 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room

25 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and  
26 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in  
27 this \* \* \* subsection on the amount of group insurance and other  
28 coverage which employers may obtain for their employees shall not  
29 be applicable to municipalities.

30 (2) Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent  
31 (100%) medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of  
32 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'  
33 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through  
34 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan  
35 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by  
36 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and  
37 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying  
38 the entire costs thereof.

39 (3) When any of the political subdivisions, school  
40 districts, junior college districts, institutions, departments, or  
41 agencies named in Section 25-15-101 and this section have adopted  
42 the group coverage plan authorized by said sections, any of the  
43 employees thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure  
44 additional benefits for their dependents with the company or  
45 companies providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing  
46 in writing the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the  
47 necessary amounts for the full payment of such additional  
48 coverage, and the same may be deducted and paid for such purposes,  
49 but the entire cost of such additional coverage for dependents  
50 shall be paid by the employee.

51 (4) (a) A municipality may provide group life insurance  
52 coverage for all or specified groups of its public employees and  
53 group hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their  
54 dependents, and the municipality may pay the total of the cost of  
55 all benefits under this section.

56 (b) A county may provide group life insurance coverage  
57 for all or specified groups of its public employees and group  
58 hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their  
59 dependents, and the county may pay the total of the cost of all  
60 benefits under this section. A county may make such provision, as  
61 specified under this paragraph, retroactively for any existing  
62 group coverage plan previously adopted by the county.

63 (5) (a) The board of supervisors of any county or governing  
64 authority of any municipality may offer any Medicare-eligible  
65 county or municipal employee supplemental compensation if the  
66 employee chooses to secure Medicare coverage in lieu of  
67 participating in any county or municipal medical or health  
68 insurance program, as the case may be, limited to an amount which  
69 shall not exceed the county's or municipality's cost for the  
70 employee to participate in such county or municipal medical or  
71 health insurance program. The provisions of this subsection shall  
72 not apply to coverage by Medicaid. Nothing in this subsection  
73 shall be construed to require a county or municipal employee to  
74 choose Medicare coverage in lieu of participating in any county or  
75 municipal medical or health insurance program, and a county or  
76 municipality shall not withhold participation in any county or

77 municipal medical or health insurance program by a  
78 Medicare-eligible employee who is otherwise eligible for such  
79 county or municipal medical or health insurance program.

80 (b) Before the supplemental compensation may be  
81 provided, as specified under this subsection, the employee shall  
82 provide verifiable proof that he has secured coverage under  
83 Medicare. Receipt of purchase for the Medicare coverage shall be  
84 provided on an annual basis to the employer.

85 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
86 and after July 1, 2021.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY TO OFFER ANY  
3 MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION IF THE  
4 EMPLOYEE CHOOSES TO SECURE MEDICARE COVERAGE IN LIEU OF  
5 PARTICIPATING IN ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL MEDICAL OR HEALTH  
6 INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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Eugene S. Clarke  
Secretary of the Senate