

## House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2336

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE 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:

6           **SECTION 1.** Section 25-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:  
8           25-15-15. (1) The board is authorized to determine the  
9 manner in which premiums and contributions by the state agencies,  
10 local school districts, colleges, universities, community/junior  
11 colleges and public libraries shall be collected to provide the  
12 self-insured health insurance program for employees as provided  
13 under this article. The state shall provide fifty percent (50%)  
14 of the cost of the above life insurance plan for all active  
15 full-time employees. The state shall provide one hundred percent  
16 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan for active  
17 full-time employees initially employed before January 1, 2006,  
18 except as otherwise provided in this section. For active  
19 full-time employees initially employed on or after January 1,  
20 2006, the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the  
21 cost of a basic level of health insurance, except as otherwise  
22 provided in this section, and the employees may pay additional

23 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
24 offered under the plan. The board, if determined to be necessary,  
25 may assess active full-time employees a portion of the active  
26 employee premium in an amount not to exceed Twenty Dollars  
27 (\$20.00) per month, notwithstanding any language in this section  
28 to the contrary. All active full-time employees shall be given  
29 the opportunity to purchase coverage for their eligible dependents  
30 with the premiums for such dependent coverage, as well as the  
31 employee's fifty percent (50%) share for his life insurance  
32 coverage, to be deductible from the employee's salary by the  
33 agency, department or institution head, which deductions, together  
34 with the fifty percent (50%) share of such life insurance premiums  
35 of such employing agency, department or institution head from  
36 funds appropriated to or authorized to be expended by the  
37 employing agency, department or institution head, shall be  
38 deposited directly into a depository bank or special fund in the  
39 State Treasury, as determined by the board. These funds and  
40 interest earned on these funds may be used for the disbursement of  
41 claims and shall be exempt from the appropriation process.

42 (2) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
43 Mississippi Library Commission appropriation bill, such funds to  
44 pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of health insurance  
45 under the State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any  
46 lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the  
47 employees by the board, for full-time library staff members in  
48 each public library in Mississippi initially employed before

49 January 1, 2006. For full-time library staff members initially  
50 employed on or after January 1, 2006, the state shall provide one  
51 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of a basic level of health  
52 insurance under the State and School Employees Health Insurance  
53 Plan, or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to  
54 the employees by the board, and the employees may pay additional  
55 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
56 offered under the plan. The commission shall allot to each public  
57 library a sufficient amount of those funds appropriated to pay the  
58 costs of insurance for eligible employees. Any funds so  
59 appropriated by line item which are not expended during the fiscal  
60 year for which such funds were appropriated shall be carried  
61 forward for the same purposes during the next succeeding fiscal  
62 year. If any premiums for the health insurance and/or late  
63 charges and interest penalties are not paid by a public library in  
64 a timely manner, as defined by the board, the Mississippi Library  
65 Commission, upon notice by the board, shall immediately withhold  
66 all subsequent disbursements of funds to that public library.

67 (3) The state shall annually provide one hundred percent  
68 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan, or any lesser  
69 percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the employees by  
70 the board, for public school district employees who work no less  
71 than twenty (20) hours during each week and regular nonstudent  
72 school bus drivers, if such employees and school bus drivers were  
73 initially employed before January 1, 2006. For such employees and  
74 school bus drivers initially employed on or after January 1, 2006,

75 the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of  
76 a basic level of health insurance under the State and School  
77 Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any lesser percentage of the  
78 cost that is not assessed to the employees by the board, and the  
79 employees may pay additional amounts to purchase additional  
80 benefits or levels of coverage offered under the plan. Where  
81 federal funding is allowable to defray, in full or in part, the  
82 cost of participation in the program by district employees who  
83 work no less than twenty (20) hours during the week and regular  
84 nonstudent bus drivers, whose salaries are paid, in full or in  
85 part, by federal funds, the allowance under this section shall be  
86 reduced to the extent of such federal funding. Where the use of  
87 federal funds is allowable but not available, it is the intent of  
88 the Legislature that school districts contribute the cost of  
89 participation for such employees from local funds, except that  
90 parent fees for child nutrition programs shall not be increased to  
91 cover such cost.

92 (4) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
93 community/junior college appropriation bill, such funds to pay one  
94 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan,  
95 or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the  
96 employees by the board, for community/junior college district  
97 employees initially employed before January 1, 2006, who work no  
98 less than twenty (20) hours during each week. For such employees  
99 initially employed on or after January 1, 2006, the state shall  
100 provide one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of a basic level of

101 health insurance under the State and School Employees Health  
102 Insurance Plan, or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not  
103 assessed to the employees by the board, and the employees may pay  
104 additional amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of  
105 coverage offered under the plan.

106 (5) When the use of federal funding is allowable to defray,  
107 in full or in part, the cost of participation in the insurance  
108 plan by community/junior college district employees who work no  
109 less than twenty (20) hours during each week, whose salaries are  
110 paid, in full or in part, by federal funds, the allowance under  
111 this section shall be reduced to the extent of the federal  
112 funding. Where the use of federal funds is allowable but not  
113 available, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
114 community/junior college districts contribute the cost of  
115 participation for such employees from local funds.

116 (6) Any community/junior college district may contribute to  
117 the cost of coverage for any district employee from local  
118 community/junior college district funds, and any public school  
119 district may contribute to the cost of coverage for any district  
120 employee from nonminimum program funds. Any part of the cost of  
121 such coverage for participating employees of public school  
122 districts and public community/junior college districts that is  
123 not paid by the state shall be paid by the participating  
124 employees, which shall be deducted from the salaries of the  
125 employees in a manner determined by the board.

126           (7) Any funds appropriated for the cost of insurance by line  
127 item in the community/junior colleges appropriation bill which are  
128 not expended during the fiscal year for which such funds were  
129 appropriated shall be carried forward for the same purposes during  
130 the next succeeding fiscal year.

131           (8) The board may establish and enforce late charges and  
132 interest penalties or other penalties for the purpose of requiring  
133 the prompt payment of all premiums for life and health insurance  
134 permitted under this chapter. All funds in excess of the amount  
135 needed for disbursement of claims shall be deposited in a special  
136 fund in the State Treasury to be known as the State and School  
137 Employees Insurance Fund. The State Treasurer shall invest all  
138 funds in the State and School Employees Insurance Fund and all  
139 interest earned shall be credited to the State and School  
140 Employees Insurance Fund. Such funds shall be placed with one or  
141 more depositories of the state and invested on the first day such  
142 funds are available for investment in certificates of deposit,  
143 repurchase agreements or in United States Treasury bills or as  
144 otherwise authorized by law for the investment of Public  
145 Employees' Retirement System funds, as long as such investment is  
146 made from competitive offering and at the highest and best market  
147 rate obtainable consistent with any available investment  
148 alternatives; however, such investments shall not be made in  
149 shares of stock, common or preferred, or in any other investments  
150 which would mature more than one (1) year from the date of  
151 investment. The board shall have the authority to draw from this

152 fund periodically such funds as are necessary to operate the  
153 self-insurance plan or to pay to the insurance carrier the cost of  
154 operation of this plan, it being the purpose to limit the amount  
155 of participation by the state to fifty percent (50%) of the cost  
156 of the life insurance program and not to limit the contracting for  
157 additional benefits where the cost will be paid in full by the  
158 employee. The state shall not share in the cost of coverage for  
159 retired employees.

160 (9) The board shall also provide for the creation of an  
161 Insurance Reserve Fund and funds therein shall be invested by the  
162 State Treasurer with all interest earned credited to the State and  
163 School Employees Insurance Fund.

164 (10) Any retired employee electing to purchase retired life  
165 and health insurance will have the full cost of such insurance  
166 deducted monthly from his State of Mississippi retirement plan  
167 check or direct billed for the cost of the premium if the  
168 retirement check is insufficient to pay for the premium. If the  
169 board determines actuarially that the premium paid by the  
170 participating retirees adversely affects the overall cost of the  
171 plan to the state, then the board may impose a premium surcharge,  
172 not to exceed fifteen percent (15%), upon such participating  
173 retired employees who are under the age for Medicare eligibility  
174 and who were initially employed before January 1, 2006. For  
175 participating retired employees who are under the age for Medicare  
176 eligibility and who were initially employed on or after January 1,

177 2006, the board may impose a premium surcharge in an amount the  
178 board determines actuarially to cover the full cost of insurance.

179 (11) The board may not impose a premium surcharge or any  
180 other premium differential upon any class of participant of the  
181 plan based on the use or nonuse of tobacco-related products.

182 (12) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, \* \* \*  
183 2026.

184 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
185 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed from and after  
186 June 30, 2022.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO EXTEND THE AUTOMATIC REPEALER ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE AND  
3 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD TO MAKE PREMIUM  
4 PAYMENTS INTO THE STATE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

HR31\SB2336A.J

Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives