

## Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 155

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:

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

13           25-15-7. Such health insurance shall not include expense  
14 incurred by or on account of an individual prior to July 1, 1972,  
15 as to him; dental care and treatment, except dental surgery and  
16 appliances to the extent necessary for the correction of damage  
17 caused by accidental injury while covered by the plan, or as a  
18 direct result of disease covered by the plan; eyeglasses, hearing  
19 aids for individuals over the age of twenty-one (21) years, and  
20 examinations for the prescription or fitting thereof; cosmetic  
21 surgery or treatment, except to the extent necessary for  
22 correction of damage by accidental injury while covered by the  
23 plan or as a direct result of disease covered by the plan;  
24 services received in a hospital owned or operated by the United  
25 States government for which no charge is made; services received  
26 for injury or sickness due to war or any act of war, whether  
27 declared or undeclared, which war or act of war shall have

28 occurred after July 1, 1972; expense for which the individual is  
29 not required to make payment; expenses to the extent of benefits  
30 provided under any employer group plan other than this plan, in  
31 which the state participates in the cost thereof; and such other  
32 expenses as may be excluded by regulations of the board.

33 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
34 amended as follows:

35 25-15-15. (1) The board is authorized to determine the  
36 manner in which premiums and contributions by the state agencies,  
37 local school districts, colleges, universities, community/junior  
38 colleges and public libraries shall be collected to provide the  
39 self-insured health insurance program for employees as provided  
40 under this article. The state shall provide fifty percent (50%)  
41 of the cost of the above life insurance plan for all active  
42 full-time employees. The state shall provide one hundred percent  
43 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan for active  
44 full-time employees initially employed before January 1, 2006,  
45 except as otherwise provided in this section. For active  
46 full-time employees initially employed on or after January 1,  
47 2006, the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the  
48 cost of a basic level of health insurance, except as otherwise  
49 provided in this section, and the employees may pay additional  
50 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
51 offered under the plan. The board, if determined to be necessary,  
52 may assess active full-time employees a portion of the active  
53 employee premium in an amount not to exceed Twenty Dollars

54 (\$20.00) per month, notwithstanding any language in this section  
55 to the contrary. All active full-time employees shall be given  
56 the opportunity to purchase coverage for their eligible dependents  
57 with the premiums for such dependent coverage, as well as the  
58 employee's fifty percent (50%) share for his life insurance  
59 coverage, to be deductible from the employee's salary by the  
60 agency, department or institution head, which deductions, together  
61 with the fifty percent (50%) share of such life insurance premiums  
62 of such employing agency, department or institution head from  
63 funds appropriated to or authorized to be expended by the  
64 employing agency, department or institution head, shall be  
65 deposited directly into a depository bank or special fund in the  
66 State Treasury, as determined by the board. These funds and  
67 interest earned on these funds may be used for the disbursement of  
68 claims and shall be exempt from the appropriation process.

69 (2) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
70 Mississippi Library Commission appropriation bill, such funds to  
71 pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of health insurance  
72 under the State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any  
73 lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the  
74 employees by the board, for full-time library staff members in  
75 each public library in Mississippi initially employed before  
76 January 1, 2006. For full-time library staff members initially  
77 employed on or after January 1, 2006, the state shall provide one  
78 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of a basic level of health  
79 insurance under the State and School Employees Health Insurance

80 Plan, or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to  
81 the employees by the board, and the employees may pay additional  
82 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
83 offered under the plan. The commission shall allot to each public  
84 library a sufficient amount of those funds appropriated to pay the  
85 costs of insurance for eligible employees. Any funds so  
86 appropriated by line item which are not expended during the fiscal  
87 year for which such funds were appropriated shall be carried  
88 forward for the same purposes during the next succeeding fiscal  
89 year. If any premiums for the health insurance and/or late  
90 charges and interest penalties are not paid by a public library in  
91 a timely manner, as defined by the board, the Mississippi Library  
92 Commission, upon notice by the board, shall immediately withhold  
93 all subsequent disbursements of funds to that public library.

94 (3) The state shall annually provide one hundred percent  
95 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan, or any lesser  
96 percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the employees by  
97 the board, for public school district employees who work no less  
98 than twenty (20) hours during each week and regular nonstudent  
99 school bus drivers, if such employees and school bus drivers were  
100 initially employed before January 1, 2006. For such employees and  
101 school bus drivers initially employed on or after January 1, 2006,  
102 the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of  
103 a basic level of health insurance under the State and School  
104 Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any lesser percentage of the  
105 cost that is not assessed to the employees by the board, and the

106 employees may pay additional amounts to purchase additional  
107 benefits or levels of coverage offered under the plan. Where  
108 federal funding is allowable to defray, in full or in part, the  
109 cost of participation in the program by district employees who  
110 work no less than twenty (20) hours during the week and regular  
111 nonstudent bus drivers, whose salaries are paid, in full or in  
112 part, by federal funds, the allowance under this section shall be  
113 reduced to the extent of such federal funding. Where the use of  
114 federal funds is allowable but not available, it is the intent of  
115 the Legislature that school districts contribute the cost of  
116 participation for such employees from local funds, except that  
117 parent fees for child nutrition programs shall not be increased to  
118 cover such cost.

119 (4) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
120 community/junior college appropriation bill, such funds to pay one  
121 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan,  
122 or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the  
123 employees by the board, for community/junior college district  
124 employees initially employed before January 1, 2006, who work no  
125 less than twenty (20) hours during each week. For such employees  
126 initially employed on or after January 1, 2006, the state shall  
127 provide one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of a basic level of  
128 health insurance under the State and School Employees Health  
129 Insurance Plan, or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not  
130 assessed to the employees by the board, and the employees may pay

131 additional amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of  
132 coverage offered under the plan.

133 (5) When the use of federal funding is allowable to defray,  
134 in full or in part, the cost of participation in the insurance  
135 plan by community/junior college district employees who work no  
136 less than twenty (20) hours during each week, whose salaries are  
137 paid, in full or in part, by federal funds, the allowance under  
138 this section shall be reduced to the extent of the federal  
139 funding. Where the use of federal funds is allowable but not  
140 available, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
141 community/junior college districts contribute the cost of  
142 participation for such employees from local funds.

143 (6) Any community/junior college district may contribute to  
144 the cost of coverage for any district employee from local  
145 community/junior college district funds, and any public school  
146 district may contribute to the cost of coverage for any district  
147 employee from nonminimum program funds. Any part of the cost of  
148 such coverage for participating employees of public school  
149 districts and public community/junior college districts that is  
150 not paid by the state shall be paid by the participating  
151 employees, which shall be deducted from the salaries of the  
152 employees in a manner determined by the board.

153 (7) Any funds appropriated for the cost of insurance by line  
154 item in the community/junior colleges appropriation bill which are  
155 not expended during the fiscal year for which such funds were

156 appropriated shall be carried forward for the same purposes during  
157 the next succeeding fiscal year.

158 (8) The board may establish and enforce late charges and  
159 interest penalties or other penalties for the purpose of requiring  
160 the prompt payment of all premiums for life and health insurance  
161 permitted under this chapter. All funds in excess of the amount  
162 needed for disbursement of claims shall be deposited in a special  
163 fund in the State Treasury to be known as the State and School  
164 Employees Insurance Fund. The State Treasurer shall invest all  
165 funds in the State and School Employees Insurance Fund and all  
166 interest earned shall be credited to the State and School  
167 Employees Insurance Fund. Such funds shall be placed with one or  
168 more depositories of the state and invested on the first day such  
169 funds are available for investment in certificates of deposit,  
170 repurchase agreements or in United States Treasury bills or as  
171 otherwise authorized by law for the investment of Public  
172 Employees' Retirement System funds, as long as such investment is  
173 made from competitive offering and at the highest and best market  
174 rate obtainable consistent with any available investment  
175 alternatives; however, such investments shall not be made in  
176 shares of stock, common or preferred, or in any other investments  
177 which would mature more than one (1) year from the date of  
178 investment. The board shall have the authority to draw from this  
179 fund periodically such funds as are necessary to operate the  
180 self-insurance plan or to pay to the insurance carrier the cost of  
181 operation of this plan, it being the purpose to limit the amount

182 of participation by the state to fifty percent (50%) of the cost  
183 of the life insurance program and not to limit the contracting for  
184 additional benefits where the cost will be paid in full by the  
185 employee. The state shall not share in the cost of coverage for  
186 retired employees.

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

191 (10) Any retired employee electing to purchase retired life  
192 and health insurance will have the full cost of such insurance  
193 deducted monthly from his State of Mississippi retirement plan  
194 check or direct billed for the cost of the premium if the  
195 retirement check is insufficient to pay for the premium. If the  
196 board determines actuarially that the premium paid by the  
197 participating retirees adversely affects the overall cost of the  
198 plan to the state, then the board may impose a premium surcharge,  
199 not to exceed fifteen percent (15%), upon such participating  
200 retired employees who are under the age for Medicare eligibility  
201 and who were initially employed before January 1, 2006. For  
202 participating retired employees who are under the age for Medicare  
203 eligibility and who were initially employed on or after January 1,  
204 2006, the board may impose a premium surcharge in an amount the  
205 board determines actuarially to cover the full cost of insurance.

206 \* \* \*



207 ( \* \* \*11) This section shall stand repealed on July  
208 1, \* \* \* 2026.

209 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
210 and after July 1, 2022.

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROHIBIT COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN OF HEARING  
3 AIDS FOR INDIVIDUALS OVER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS; TO AMEND SECTION  
4 25-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON  
5 THE HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR IMPOSING A SURCHARGE  
6 BASED ON THE USE OR NONUSE OF TOBACCO-RELATED PRODUCTS, AND TO  
7 EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD TO COLLECT  
8 PREMIUM PAYMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED  
9 PURPOSES.

SS26\HB155A.1J

Eugene S. Clarke  
Secretary of the Senate