

**Adopted  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 155**

**BY:**

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

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

12           25-15-7. Such health insurance shall not include expense  
13 incurred by or on account of an individual prior to July 1, 1972,  
14 as to him or her; dental care and treatment, except dental surgery  
15 and appliances to the extent necessary for the correction of  
16 damage caused by accidental injury while covered by the plan, or  
17 as a direct result of disease covered by the plan;  
18 eyeglasses \* \* \* and examinations for the prescription or fitting  
19 thereof; cosmetic surgery or treatment, except to the extent



20 necessary for correction of damage by accidental injury while  
21 covered by the plan or as a direct result of disease covered by  
22 the plan; services received in a hospital owned or operated by the  
23 United States government for which no charge is made; services  
24 received for injury or sickness due to war or any act of war,  
25 whether declared or undeclared, which war or act of war shall have  
26 occurred after July 1, 1972; expense for which the individual is  
27 not required to make payment; expenses to the extent of benefits  
28 provided under any employer group plan other than this plan, in  
29 which the state participates in the cost thereof; and such other  
30 expenses as may be excluded by regulations of the board.

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

33 25-15-15. (1) The board is authorized to determine the  
34 manner in which premiums and contributions by the state agencies,  
35 local school districts, colleges, universities, community/junior  
36 colleges and public libraries shall be collected to provide the  
37 self-insured health insurance program for employees as provided  
38 under this article. The state shall provide fifty percent (50%)  
39 of the cost of the above life insurance plan for all active  
40 full-time employees. The state shall provide one hundred percent  
41 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan for active  
42 full-time employees initially employed before January 1, 2006,  
43 except as otherwise provided in this section. For active  
44 full-time employees initially employed on or after January 1,



45 2006, the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the  
46 cost of a basic level of health insurance, except as otherwise  
47 provided in this section, and the employees may pay additional  
48 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
49 offered under the plan. The board, if determined to be necessary,  
50 may assess active full-time employees a portion of the active  
51 employee premium in an amount not to exceed Twenty Dollars  
52 (\$20.00) per month, notwithstanding any language in this section  
53 to the contrary. All active full-time employees shall be given  
54 the opportunity to purchase coverage for their eligible dependents  
55 with the premiums for such dependent coverage, as well as the  
56 employee's fifty percent (50%) share for his life insurance  
57 coverage, to be deductible from the employee's salary by the  
58 agency, department or institution head, which deductions, together  
59 with the fifty percent (50%) share of such life insurance premiums  
60 of such employing agency, department or institution head from  
61 funds appropriated to or authorized to be expended by the  
62 employing agency, department or institution head, shall be  
63 deposited directly into a depository bank or special fund in the  
64 State Treasury, as determined by the board. These funds and  
65 interest earned on these funds may be used for the disbursement of  
66 claims and shall be exempt from the appropriation process.

67 (2) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
68 Mississippi Library Commission appropriation bill, such funds to  
69 pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of health insurance



70 under the State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any  
71 lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the  
72 employees by the board, for full-time library staff members in  
73 each public library in Mississippi initially employed before  
74 January 1, 2006. For full-time library staff members initially  
75 employed on or after January 1, 2006, the state shall provide one  
76 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of a basic level of health  
77 insurance under the State and School Employees Health Insurance  
78 Plan, or any lesser percentage of the cost that is not assessed to  
79 the employees by the board, and the employees may pay additional  
80 amounts to purchase additional benefits or levels of coverage  
81 offered under the plan. The commission shall allot to each public  
82 library a sufficient amount of those funds appropriated to pay the  
83 costs of insurance for eligible employees. Any funds so  
84 appropriated by line item which are not expended during the fiscal  
85 year for which such funds were appropriated shall be carried  
86 forward for the same purposes during the next succeeding fiscal  
87 year. If any premiums for the health insurance and/or late  
88 charges and interest penalties are not paid by a public library in  
89 a timely manner, as defined by the board, the Mississippi Library  
90 Commission, upon notice by the board, shall immediately withhold  
91 all subsequent disbursements of funds to that public library.

92 (3) The state shall annually provide one hundred percent  
93 (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan, or any lesser  
94 percentage of the cost that is not assessed to the employees by



95 the board, for public school district employees who work no less  
96 than twenty (20) hours during each week and regular nonstudent  
97 school bus drivers, if such employees and school bus drivers were  
98 initially employed before January 1, 2006. For such employees and  
99 school bus drivers initially employed on or after January 1, 2006,  
100 the state shall provide one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of  
101 a basic level of health insurance under the State and School  
102 Employees Health Insurance Plan, or any lesser percentage of the  
103 cost that is not assessed to the employees by the board, and the  
104 employees may pay additional amounts to purchase additional  
105 benefits or levels of coverage offered under the plan. Where  
106 federal funding is allowable to defray, in full or in part, the  
107 cost of participation in the program by district employees who  
108 work no less than twenty (20) hours during the week and regular  
109 nonstudent bus drivers, whose salaries are paid, in full or in  
110 part, by federal funds, the allowance under this section shall be  
111 reduced to the extent of such federal funding. Where the use of  
112 federal funds is allowable but not available, it is the intent of  
113 the Legislature that school districts contribute the cost of  
114 participation for such employees from local funds, except that  
115 parent fees for child nutrition programs shall not be increased to  
116 cover such cost.

117 (4) The state shall provide annually, by line item in the  
118 community/junior college appropriation bill, such funds to pay one  
119 hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance plan,



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

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

141 (6) Any community/junior college district may contribute to  
142 the cost of coverage for any district employee from local  
143 community/junior college district funds, and any public school  
144 district may contribute to the cost of coverage for any district



145 employee from nonminimum program funds. Any part of the cost of  
146 such coverage for participating employees of public school  
147 districts and public community/junior college districts that is  
148 not paid by the state shall be paid by the participating  
149 employees, which shall be deducted from the salaries of the  
150 employees in a manner determined by the board.

151 (7) Any funds appropriated for the cost of insurance by line  
152 item in the community/junior colleges appropriation bill which are  
153 not expended during the fiscal year for which such funds were  
154 appropriated shall be carried forward for the same purposes during  
155 the next succeeding fiscal year.

156 (8) The board may establish and enforce late charges and  
157 interest penalties or other penalties for the purpose of requiring  
158 the prompt payment of all premiums for life and health insurance  
159 permitted under this chapter. All funds in excess of the amount  
160 needed for disbursement of claims shall be deposited in a special  
161 fund in the State Treasury to be known as the State and School  
162 Employees Insurance Fund. The State Treasurer shall invest all  
163 funds in the State and School Employees Insurance Fund and all  
164 interest earned shall be credited to the State and School  
165 Employees Insurance Fund. Such funds shall be placed with one or  
166 more depositories of the state and invested on the first day such  
167 funds are available for investment in certificates of deposit,  
168 repurchase agreements or in United States Treasury bills or as  
169 otherwise authorized by law for the investment of Public



170 Employees' Retirement System funds, as long as such investment is  
171 made from competitive offering and at the highest and best market  
172 rate obtainable consistent with any available investment  
173 alternatives; however, such investments shall not be made in  
174 shares of stock, common or preferred, or in any other investments  
175 which would mature more than one (1) year from the date of  
176 investment. The board shall have the authority to draw from this  
177 fund periodically such funds as are necessary to operate the  
178 self-insurance plan or to pay to the insurance carrier the cost of  
179 operation of this plan, it being the purpose to limit the amount  
180 of participation by the state to fifty percent (50%) of the cost  
181 of the life insurance program and not to limit the contracting for  
182 additional benefits where the cost will be paid in full by the  
183 employee. The state shall not share in the cost of coverage for  
184 retired employees.

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

189 (10) Any retired employee electing to purchase retired life  
190 and health insurance will have the full cost of such insurance  
191 deducted monthly from his State of Mississippi retirement plan  
192 check or direct billed for the cost of the premium if the  
193 retirement check is insufficient to pay for the premium. If the  
194 board determines actuarially that the premium paid by the





195 participating retirees adversely affects the overall cost of the  
196 plan to the state, then the board may impose a premium surcharge,  
197 not to exceed fifteen percent (15%), upon such participating  
198 retired employees who are under the age for Medicare eligibility  
199 and who were initially employed before January 1, 2006. For  
200 participating retired employees who are under the age for Medicare  
201 eligibility and who were initially employed on or after January 1,  
202 2006, the board may impose a premium surcharge in an amount the  
203 board determines actuarially to cover the full cost of insurance.

204 \* \* \*

205 ( \* \* \* 11) This section shall stand repealed on July  
206 1, \* \* \* 2026.

207 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
208 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 DELETE THE PROHIBITION ON THE STATE HEALTH PLAN COVERING HEARING  
3 AIDS; TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
4 REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE HEALTH INSURANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
5 IMPOSING A SURCHARGE BASED ON THE USE OR NONUSE OF TOBACCO-RELATED  
6 PRODUCTS, AND TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD  
7 TO COLLECT PREMIUM PAYMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE PLAN; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

