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To: Insurance;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 926

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY
3 ELECT TO JOIN THE STATE EMPLOYEES LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN
4 IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED FOR RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES; TO
5 AMEND SECTION 25-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
6 CERTAIN ELECTED STATE, DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY OFFICIALS MAY
7 PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE EMPLOYEES LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN;
8 TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE
9 DEFINITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 25-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:[LH1]

13 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and
14 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

15 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for
16 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct
17 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state
18 government and any person who works full time for any school
19 district, community/junior college, public library or
20 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for
21 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children or any regular
22 nonstudent bus driver. This shall include legislators, employees
23 of the legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state and
24 "employees" shall include full-time salaried judges and full-time

25 district attorneys and their staff and full-time compulsory school
26 attendance officers. For the purposes of this article, any
27 "employee" making contributions to the State of Mississippi
28 retirement plan shall be considered a full-time employee.

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

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

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

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

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

39 (g) "Retired employee" means any person who is retired
40 and is receiving a retirement allowance under the Public
41 Employees' Retirement System, including a retired employee of a
42 local institution, department or agency as provided in Section
43 25-15-103. The term "retired employee" includes an elected state,
44 district, municipal or county official as provided in Section
45 25-15-14, as amended in House Bill No. _____, 2000 Regular Session.

46 SECTION 2. Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
47 amended as follows:

48 25-15-103. The maximum amount of group insurance or other
49 coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one hundred
50 percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by regulations
51 promulgated by the governing board or head of any political
52 subdivision, school district, junior college district,
53 institution, department or agency named in Sections 25-15-101 and
54 25-15-103, but the life insurance for each employee shall not
55 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of

56 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in
57 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount
58 may be for accidental death; accident, health and salary
59 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty
60 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by
61 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax
62 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room
63 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and
64 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in
65 this paragraph on the amount of group insurance and other coverage
66 which employers may obtain for their employees shall not be
67 applicable to municipalities.

68 Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent (100%)
69 medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of
70 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'
71 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through
72 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan
73 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by
74 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and
75 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying
76 the entire costs thereof. Any such employee who retires after
77 July 1, 2000, may elect to join the State Employees Life and
78 Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and coverages as
79 provided for retired employees under Sections 25-15-9 and
80 25-15-15.

81 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,
82 junior college districts, institutions, departments or agencies
83 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group

84 coverage plan authorized by these sections, any of the employees
85 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional
86 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies
87 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing
88 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary
89 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the
90 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire
91 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by
92 the employee.

93 The municipality may provide group life insurance coverage
94 for all or specified groups of its public employees and group
95 hospitalization benefits for such public employees and their
96 dependents, and the municipality may pay the total of the cost of
97 all benefits under this section.

98 SECTION 3. Section 25-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
99 amended as follows:[LH2]

100 25-15-14. Any elected state or district official who does
101 not run for reelection or who is defeated before being entitled to
102 receive a retirement allowance shall be eligible to continue to
103 participate in the State and School Employees Health Insurance
104 Plan under the same conditions and coverages for retired
105 employees. Any elected state, district, municipal or county
106 official who does not run for reelection after July 1, 2000, or
107 who is defeated before being entitled to receive a retirement
108 allowance after July 1, 2000, shall be eligible to participate in
109 the State Employees Life and Health Insurance Plan under the same
110 conditions and coverages for retired employees.

111 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from

112 and after July 1, 2000.