

By: Representative Moak

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 147

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC
2 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM SHALL ESTABLISH A GROUP HEALTH
3 INSURANCE PLAN UNDER WHICH MEMBERS OF THE SYSTEM MAY PREPAY THE
4 COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS BEFORE RETIREMENT AND RECEIVE
5 THE BENEFITS AFTER RETIREMENT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY
6 THE EMPLOYEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The Board of Trustees of the Public Employees'
9 Retirement System shall establish and implement a group health
10 insurance plan under which members of the system may prepay the
11 costs of health insurance benefits through payroll deduction
12 contributions before retirement and receive health insurance
13 benefits after retirement without additional contributions by the
14 employee. The board of trustees shall determine the coverages of
15 the plan, and the amount of the coverage shall be in such
16 reasonable amount as determined by the board to be adequate, after
17 due consideration of current and projected health costs in
18 Mississippi. The rate of the employee contributions before
19 retirement shall be determined by the board of trustees, and the
20 rate may be different for individual employees, taking into
21 consideration the employee's age, life expectancy and the number
22 of years before eligibility for retirement during which
23 contributions will be made. The board of trustees may provide
24 optional coverage for the spouses and other dependents of
25 employees, and any employee electing that optional coverage shall
26 have his contribution rate adjusted accordingly by the board of
27 trustees. The board of trustees may enter into an agreement with
28 insurance companies, hospital service associations, medical or
29 health care corporations, health maintenance organizations or



30 government agencies authorized to do business in the state for the
31 issuance of a policy or contract of health, medical, hospital or
32 surgical benefits or any combination thereof for employees
33 participating in the plan. The board of trustees may employ or
34 contract for such consulting or actuarial services as may be
35 necessary to formulate the plan. The board of trustees is
36 authorized to make all rules and regulations necessary to carry
37 out the purpose and intent of this section.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2002.

