

By: Representative Robinson (84th)

To: Insurance;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 584

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 AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LIFE AND HEALTH  
4 INSURANCE PLAN IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED FOR RETIRED STATE  
5 EMPLOYEES; TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
6 PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN ELECTED STATE, DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY  
7 OFFICIALS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LIFE  
8 AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-3, MISSISSIPPI  
9 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE 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:

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.

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, 2002, may elect to join the State and School Employees  
78 Life and Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and  
79 coverages as provided for retired employees under Sections 25-15-9  
80 and 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:

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, 2002, or  
107 who is defeated before being entitled to receive a retirement  
108 allowance after July 1, 2002, shall be eligible to participate in  
109 the State and School Employees Life and Health Insurance Plan  
110 under the same conditions and coverages for retired employees.

111         **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
112 and after July 1, 2002.

