

By: Representative Green

To: Insurance;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1274

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 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:

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) "Retired employee" means any person who is retired  
36 and is receiving a retirement allowance under the Public  
37 Employees' Retirement System, including a retired employee of a  
38 local institution, department or agency as provided in Section  
39 25-15-103. The term "retired employee" includes an elected state,  
40 district or county official as provided in Section 25-15-14, as  
41 amended in House Bill No. , 2002 Regular Session.

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

44 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-15-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
45 amended as follows:

46 25-15-103. The maximum amount of group insurance or other  
47 coverage used in determining employer's limitation of one hundred  
48 percent (100%) of such costs shall be determined by regulations  
49 promulgated by the governing board or head of any political  
50 subdivision, school district, junior college district,  
51 institution, department or agency named in Sections 25-15-101 and  
52 25-15-103, but the life insurance for each employee shall not  
53 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or the amount of  
54 deduction allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service in  
55 filing a federal tax return, whichever is greater. A like amount  
56 may be for accidental death; accident, health and salary  
57 protection insurance, providing benefits not exceeding sixty  
58 percent (60%) of the employee's income, or the amount allowed by  
59 the United States Internal Revenue Service in filing a federal tax  
60 return, whichever is greater. Hospitalization benefits for room  
61 and board may not exceed the average semiprivate cost per day; and  
62 the other coverages authorized hereinabove. The limitations in  
63 this paragraph on the amount of group insurance and other coverage



64 which employers may obtain for their employees shall not be  
65 applicable to municipalities.

66 Any employee who retires due to one hundred percent (100%)  
67 medical disability, or due to reaching the statutory age of  
68 retirement under the provisions of the Public Employees'  
69 Retirement Law of 1952, being Sections 25-11-101 through  
70 25-11-139, may, if he elects, remain a member of the group plan  
71 for such life insurance and other benefits as may be agreed to by  
72 the governing board or institution, department, or agency head and  
73 the companies writing such insurance and other coverage, by paying  
74 the entire costs thereof. Any such employee who retires after  
75 July 1, 2002, may elect to join the State Employees Life and  
76 Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and coverages as  
77 provided for retired employees under Sections 25-15-9 and  
78 25-15-15.

79 When any of the political subdivisions, school districts,  
80 junior college districts, institutions, departments, or agencies  
81 named in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103 have adopted the group  
82 coverage plan authorized by these sections, any of the employees  
83 thereof participating in the plan who desire to secure additional  
84 benefits for their dependents with the company or companies  
85 providing such group coverage may do so by authorizing in writing  
86 the deduction from his or her salary or wages of the necessary  
87 amounts for the full payment of such additional coverage, and the  
88 same may be deducted and paid for such purposes, but the entire  
89 cost of such additional coverage for dependents shall be paid by  
90 the employee.

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



96           **SECTION 3.** Section 25-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
97 amended as follows:

98           25-15-14. Any elected state or district official who does  
99 not run for reelection or who is defeated before being entitled to  
100 receive a retirement allowance shall be eligible to continue to  
101 participate in the State and School Employees Health Insurance  
102 Plan under the same conditions and coverages for retired  
103 employees. Any elected state, district or county official who  
104 does not run for reelection after July 1, 2002, or who is defeated  
105 before being entitled to receive a retirement allowance after July  
106 1, 2002, shall be eligible to participate in the State Employees  
107 Life and Health Insurance Plan under the same conditions and  
108 coverages for retired employees.

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

