

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2276

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-15-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE AMOUNTS OF LIFE INSURANCE FOR WHICH RETIREES ARE
3 ELIGIBLE UNDER THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LIFE INSURANCE PLAN;
4 TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "ANNUAL WAGE" AS IT RELATES
5 TO THE STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LIFE INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 **[Through June 30 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**
11 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**
12 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

13 25-15-9. (1) (a) The board shall design a plan of health
14 insurance for state employees which provides benefits for
15 semiprivate rooms in addition to other incidental coverages which
16 the board deems necessary. The amount of the coverages shall be
17 in such reasonable amount as may be determined by the board to be
18 adequate, after due consideration of current health costs in
19 Mississippi. The plan shall also include major medical benefits
20 in such amounts as the board shall determine. The board is also
21 authorized to accept bids for such alternate coverage and optional
22 benefits as the board shall deem proper. Any contract for
23 alternative coverage and optional benefits shall be awarded by the
24 board after it has carefully studied and evaluated the bids and
25 selected the best and most cost-effective bid. The board may
26 reject all such bids; however, the board shall notify all bidders
27 of the rejection and shall actively solicit new bids if all bids
28 are rejected. The board may employ or contract for such
29 consulting or actuarial services as may be necessary to formulate



30 the plan, and to assist the board in the preparation of
31 specifications and in the process of advertising for the bids for
32 the plan. Such contracts shall be solicited and entered into in
33 accordance with Section 25-15-5. The board shall keep a record of
34 all persons, agents and corporations who contract with or assist
35 the board in preparing and developing the plan. The board in a
36 timely manner shall provide copies of this record to the members
37 of the advisory council created in this section and those
38 legislators, or their designees, who may attend meetings of the
39 advisory council. The board shall provide copies of this record
40 in the solicitation of bids for the administration or servicing of
41 the self-insured program. Each person, agent or corporation
42 which, during the previous fiscal year, has assisted in the
43 development of the plan or employed or compensated any person who
44 assisted in the development of the plan, and which bids on the
45 administration or servicing of the plan, shall submit to the board
46 a statement accompanying the bid explaining in detail its
47 participation with the development of the plan. This statement
48 shall include the amount of compensation paid by the bidder to any
49 such employee during the previous fiscal year. The board shall
50 make all such information available to the members of the advisory
51 council and those legislators, or their designees, who may attend
52 meetings of the advisory council before any action is taken by the
53 board on the bids submitted. The failure of any bidder to fully
54 and accurately comply with this paragraph shall result in the
55 rejection of any bid submitted by that bidder or the cancellation
56 of any contract executed when the failure is discovered after the
57 acceptance of that bid. The board is authorized to promulgate
58 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
59 subsection.

60 The board shall develop plans for the insurance plan
61 authorized by this section in accordance with the provisions of
62 Section 25-15-5.



63 Any corporation, association, company or individual that
64 contracts with the board for the third-party claims administration
65 of the self-insured plan shall prepare and keep on file an
66 explanation of benefits for each claim processed. The explanation
67 of benefits shall contain such information relative to each
68 processed claim which the board deems necessary, and, at a
69 minimum, each explanation shall provide the claimant's name, claim
70 number, provider number, provider name, service dates, type of
71 services, amount of charges, amount allowed to the claimant and
72 reason codes. The information contained in the explanation of
73 benefits shall be available for inspection upon request by the
74 board. The board shall have access to all claims information
75 utilized in the issuance of payments to employees and providers.

76 (b) There is created an advisory council to advise the
77 board in the formulation of the State and School Employees Health
78 Insurance Plan. The council shall be composed of the State
79 Insurance Commissioner or his designee, an employee-representative
80 of the institutions of higher learning appointed by the board of
81 trustees thereof, an employee-representative of the Department of
82 Transportation appointed by the director thereof, an
83 employee-representative of the State Tax Commission appointed by
84 the Commissioner of Revenue, an employee-representative of the
85 Mississippi Department of Health appointed by the State Health
86 Officer, an employee-representative of the Mississippi Department
87 of Corrections appointed by the Commissioner of Corrections, and
88 an employee-representative of the Department of Human Services
89 appointed by the Executive Director of Human Services, two (2)
90 certificated public school administrators appointed by the State
91 Board of Education, two (2) certificated classroom teachers
92 appointed by the State Board of Education, a noncertificated
93 school employee appointed by the State Board of Education and a
94 community/junior college employee appointed by the State Board for
95 Community and Junior Colleges.



96 The Lieutenant Governor may designate the Secretary of the
97 Senate, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the
98 Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the
99 Senate Insurance Committee, and the Speaker of the House of
100 Representatives may designate the Clerk of the House, the Chairman
101 of the House Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of the House
102 Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Insurance
103 Committee, to attend any meeting of the State and School Employees
104 Insurance Advisory Council. The appointing authorities may
105 designate an alternate member from their respective houses to
106 serve when the regular designee is unable to attend such meetings
107 of the council. Such designees shall have no jurisdiction or vote
108 on any matter within the jurisdiction of the council. For
109 attending meetings of the council, such legislators shall receive
110 per diem and expenses which shall be paid from the contingent
111 expense funds of their respective houses in the same amounts as
112 provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in
113 session; however, no per diem and expenses for attending meetings
114 of the council will be paid while the Legislature is in session.
115 No per diem and expenses will be paid except for attending
116 meetings of the council without prior approval of the proper
117 committee in their respective houses.

118 (c) No change in the terms of the State and School
119 Employees Health Insurance Plan may be made effective unless the
120 board, or its designee, has provided notice to the State and
121 School Employees Health Insurance Advisory Council and has called
122 a meeting of the council at least fifteen (15) days before the
123 effective date of such change. In the event that the State and
124 School Employees Health Insurance Advisory Council does not meet
125 to advise the board on the proposed changes, the changes to the
126 plan shall become effective at such time as the board has informed
127 the council that the changes shall become effective.



128 (d) **Medical benefits for retired employees and**
129 **dependents under age sixty-five (65) years and not eligible for**
130 **Medicare benefits.** The same health insurance coverage as for all
131 other active employees and their dependents shall be available to
132 retired employees and all dependents under age sixty-five (65)
133 years who are not eligible for Medicare benefits, the level of
134 benefits to be the same level as for all other active
135 participants. This section will apply to those employees who
136 retire due to one hundred percent (100%) medical disability as
137 well as those employees electing early retirement.

138 (e) **Medical benefits for retired employees and**
139 **dependents over age sixty-five (65) years or otherwise eligible**
140 **for Medicare benefits.** The health insurance coverage available to
141 retired employees over age sixty-five (65) years or otherwise
142 eligible for Medicare benefits, and all dependents over age
143 sixty-five (65) years or otherwise eligible for Medicare benefits,
144 shall be the major medical coverage with the lifetime maximum of
145 One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Benefits shall be reduced by
146 Medicare benefits as though such Medicare benefits were the base
147 plan.

148 All covered individuals shall be assumed to have full
149 Medicare coverage, Parts A and B; and any Medicare payments under
150 both Parts A and B shall be computed to reduce benefits payable
151 under this plan.

152 (2) Nonduplication of benefits--reduction of benefits by
153 Title XIX benefits: When benefits would be payable under more
154 than one (1) group plan, benefits under those plans will be
155 coordinated to the extent that the total benefits under all plans
156 will not exceed the total expenses incurred.

157 Benefits for hospital or surgical or medical benefits shall
158 be reduced by any similar benefits payable in accordance with
159 Title XIX of the Social Security Act or under any amendments
160 thereto, or any implementing legislation.



161 Benefits for hospital or surgical or medical benefits shall
162 be reduced by any similar benefits payable by workers'
163 compensation.

164 (3) (a) Schedule of life insurance benefits--group term:
165 The amount of term life insurance for each active employee of a
166 department, agency or institution of the state government shall
167 not be in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or
168 twice the amount of the employee's annual wage to the next highest
169 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever may be less, but in no
170 case less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), with a like
171 amount for accidental death and dismemberment on a
172 twenty-four-hour basis. The plan will further contain a premium
173 waiver provision if a covered employee becomes totally and
174 permanently disabled prior to age sixty-five (65) years.
175 Employees retiring after June 30, 1999, shall be eligible to
176 continue life insurance coverage in an amount of Ten Thousand
177 Dollars (\$10,000.00), Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or
178 One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) into retirement.

179 (b) Effective October 1, 1999, schedule of life
180 insurance benefits--group term: The amount of term life insurance
181 for each active employee of any school district, community/junior
182 college, public library or university-based program authorized
183 under Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed
184 children or any regular nonstudent bus driver shall not be in
185 excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or twice the
186 amount of the employee's annual wage to the next highest One
187 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever may be less, but in no
188 case less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), with a like
189 amount for accidental death and dismemberment on a
190 twenty-four-hour basis. The plan will further contain a premium
191 waiver provision if a covered employee of any school district,
192 community/junior college, public library or university-based
193 program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and



194 emotionally disturbed children or any regular nonstudent bus
195 driver becomes totally and permanently disabled prior to age
196 sixty-five (65) years. Employees of any school district,
197 community/junior college, public library or university-based
198 program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and
199 emotionally disturbed children or any regular nonstudent bus
200 driver retiring after September 30, 1999, shall be eligible to
201 continue life insurance coverage in an amount of Ten Thousand
202 Dollars (\$10,000.00), Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or
203 One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) into retirement.

204 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (3), the term
205 "annual wage" shall mean the amount listed as social security
206 wages on the employee's W-2 Form for the prior calendar year, or
207 the employee's current annual salary if the employee has been
208 employed for less than one (1) calendar year.

209 (4) Any eligible employee who on March 1, 1971, was
210 participating in a group life insurance program which has
211 provisions different from those included herein and for which the
212 State of Mississippi was paying a part of the premium may, at his
213 discretion, continue to participate in such plan. Such employee
214 shall pay in full all additional costs, if any, above the minimum
215 program established by this article. Under no circumstances shall
216 any individual who begins employment with the state after March 1,
217 1971, be eligible for the provisions of this paragraph.

218 (5) The board may offer medical savings accounts as defined
219 in Section 71-9-3 as a plan option.

220 (6) Any premium differentials, differences in coverages,
221 discounts determined by risk or by any other factors shall be
222 uniformly applied to all active employees participating in the
223 insurance plan. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
224 state contribution to the plan be the same for each employee
225 throughout the state.



226 (7) On October 1, 1999, any school district,
227 community/junior college district or public library may elect to
228 remain with an existing policy or policies of group life insurance
229 with an insurance company approved by the State and School
230 Employees Health Insurance Management Board, in lieu of
231 participation in the State and School Life Insurance Plan. The
232 state's contribution of up to fifty percent (50%) of the active
233 employee's premium under the State and School Life Insurance Plan
234 may be applied toward the cost of coverage for full-time employees
235 participating in the approved life insurance company group plan.
236 For purposes of this subsection (7), "life insurance company group
237 plan" means a plan administered or sold by a private insurance
238 company. After October 1, 1999, the board may assess charges in
239 addition to the existing State and School Life Insurance Plan
240 rates to such employees as a condition of enrollment in the State
241 and School Life Insurance Plan. In order for any life insurance
242 company group plan existing as of October 1, 1999, to be approved
243 by the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management
244 Board under this subsection (7), it shall meet the following
245 criteria:

246 (a) The insurance company offering the group life
247 insurance plan shall be rated "A-" or better by A.M. Best state
248 insurance rating service and be licensed as an admitted carrier in
249 the State of Mississippi by the Mississippi Department of
250 Insurance.

251 (b) The insurance company group life insurance plan
252 shall provide the same life insurance, accidental death and
253 dismemberment insurance and waiver of premium benefits as provided
254 in the State and School Life Insurance Plan.

255 (c) The insurance company group life insurance plan
256 shall be fully insured, and no form of self-funding life insurance
257 by such company shall be approved.



258 (d) The insurance company group life insurance plan
259 shall have one (1) composite rate per One Thousand Dollars
260 (\$1,000.00) of coverage for active employees regardless of age and
261 one (1) composite rate per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of
262 coverage for all retirees regardless of age or type of retiree.

263 (e) The insurance company and its group life insurance
264 plan shall comply with any administrative requirements of the
265 State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board. In
266 the event any insurance company providing group life insurance
267 benefits to employees under this subsection (7) fails to comply
268 with any requirements specified herein or any administrative
269 requirements of the board, the state shall discontinue providing
270 funding for the cost of such insurance.

271 **[From and after July 1 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**
272 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**
273 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

274 25-15-9. (1) (a) The board shall design a plan of health
275 insurance for state employees that provides benefits for
276 semiprivate rooms in addition to other incidental coverages that
277 the board deems necessary. The amount of the coverages shall be
278 in such reasonable amount as may be determined by the board to be
279 adequate, after due consideration of current health costs in
280 Mississippi. The plan shall also include major medical benefits
281 in such amounts as the board shall determine. The board is also
282 authorized to accept bids for such alternate coverage and optional
283 benefits as the board deems proper. Any contract for alternative
284 coverage and optional benefits shall be awarded by the board after
285 it has carefully studied and evaluated the bids and selected the
286 best and most cost-effective bid. The board may reject all such
287 bids; however, the board shall notify all bidders of the rejection
288 and shall actively solicit new bids if all bids are rejected. The
289 board may employ or contract for such consulting or actuarial
290 services as may be necessary to formulate the plan, and to assist



291 the board in the preparation of specifications and in the process
292 of advertising for the bids for the plan. Those contracts shall
293 be solicited and entered into in accordance with Section 25-15-5.
294 The board shall keep a record of all persons, agents and
295 corporations who contract with or assist the board in preparing
296 and developing the plan. The board in a timely manner shall
297 provide copies of this record to the members of the advisory
298 council created in this section and those legislators, or their
299 designees, who may attend meetings of the advisory council. The
300 board shall provide copies of this record in the solicitation of
301 bids for the administration or servicing of the self-insured
302 program. Each person, agent or corporation that, during the
303 previous fiscal year, has assisted in the development of the plan
304 or employed or compensated any person who assisted in the
305 development of the plan, and that bids on the administration or
306 servicing of the plan, shall submit to the board a statement
307 accompanying the bid explaining in detail its participation with
308 the development of the plan. This statement shall include the
309 amount of compensation paid by the bidder to any such employee
310 during the previous fiscal year. The board shall make all such
311 information available to the members of the advisory council and
312 those legislators, or their designees, who may attend meetings of
313 the advisory council before any action is taken by the board on
314 the bids submitted. The failure of any bidder to fully and
315 accurately comply with this paragraph shall result in the
316 rejection of any bid submitted by that bidder or the cancellation
317 of any contract executed when the failure is discovered after the
318 acceptance of that bid. The board is authorized to promulgate
319 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this
320 subsection.

321 The board shall develop plans for the insurance plan
322 authorized by this section in accordance with the provisions of
323 Section 25-15-5.



324 Any corporation, association, company or individual that
325 contracts with the board for the third-party claims administration
326 of the self-insured plan shall prepare and keep on file an
327 explanation of benefits for each claim processed. The explanation
328 of benefits shall contain such information relative to each
329 processed claim which the board deems necessary, and, at a
330 minimum, each explanation shall provide the claimant's name, claim
331 number, provider number, provider name, service dates, type of
332 services, amount of charges, amount allowed to the claimant and
333 reason codes. The information contained in the explanation of
334 benefits shall be available for inspection upon request by the
335 board. The board shall have access to all claims information
336 utilized in the issuance of payments to employees and providers.

337 (b) There is created an advisory council to advise the
338 board in the formulation of the State and School Employees Health
339 Insurance Plan. The council shall be composed of the State
340 Insurance Commissioner or his designee, an employee-representative
341 of the state institutions of higher learning appointed by the
342 board of trustees thereof, an employee-representative of the
343 Mississippi Department of Transportation appointed by the director
344 thereof, an employee-representative of the State Tax Commission
345 appointed by the Commissioner of Revenue, an
346 employee-representative of the State Department of Health
347 appointed by the State Health Officer, an employee-representative
348 of the Mississippi Department of Corrections appointed by the
349 Commissioner of Corrections, and an employee-representative of the
350 Mississippi Department of Human Services appointed by the
351 Executive Director of Human Services, two (2) certificated public
352 school administrators appointed by the State Board of Education,
353 two (2) certificated classroom teachers appointed by the State
354 Board of Education, a noncertificated school employee appointed by
355 the State Board of Education and a community/junior college



356 employee appointed by the State Board for Community and Junior
357 Colleges.

358 The Lieutenant Governor may designate the Secretary of the
359 Senate, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the
360 Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the
361 Senate Insurance Committee, and the Speaker of the House of
362 Representatives may designate the Clerk of the House, the Chairman
363 of the House Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of the House
364 Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Insurance
365 Committee, to attend any meeting of the State and School Employees
366 Insurance Advisory Council. The appointing authorities may
367 designate an alternate member from their respective houses to
368 serve when the regular designee is unable to attend such meetings
369 of the council. Those designees shall have no jurisdiction or
370 vote on any matter within the jurisdiction of the council. For
371 attending meetings of the council, those legislators shall receive
372 per diem and expenses, which shall be paid from the contingent
373 expense funds of their respective houses in the same amounts as
374 provided for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in
375 session; however, no per diem and expenses for attending meetings
376 of the council will be paid while the Legislature is in session.
377 No per diem and expenses will be paid except for attending
378 meetings of the council without prior approval of the proper
379 committee in their respective houses.

380 (c) No change in the terms of the State and School
381 Employees Health Insurance Plan may be made effective unless the
382 board, or its designee, has provided notice to the State and
383 School Employees Health Insurance Advisory Council and has called
384 a meeting of the council at least fifteen (15) days before the
385 effective date of the change. If the State and School Employees
386 Health Insurance Advisory Council does not meet to advise the
387 board on the proposed changes, the changes to the plan will become



388 effective at such time as the board has informed the council that
389 the changes will become effective.

390 (2) Nonduplication of benefits--reduction of benefits by
391 Title XIX benefits: When benefits would be payable under more
392 than one (1) group plan, benefits under those plans will be
393 coordinated to the extent that the total benefits under all plans
394 will not exceed the total expenses incurred.

395 Benefits for hospital or surgical or medical benefits shall
396 be reduced by any similar benefits payable in accordance with
397 Title XIX of the Social Security Act or under any amendments
398 thereto, or any implementing legislation.

399 Benefits for hospital or surgical or medical benefits shall
400 be reduced by any similar benefits payable by workers'
401 compensation.

402 (3) (a) Schedule of life insurance benefits--group term:
403 The amount of term life insurance for each active employee of a
404 department, agency or institution of the state government shall
405 not be in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or
406 twice the amount of the employee's annual wage to the next highest
407 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever may be less, but in no
408 case less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), with a like
409 amount for accidental death and dismemberment on a
410 twenty-four-hour basis. Employees retiring after June 30, 1999,
411 shall be eligible to continue life insurance coverage in an amount
412 of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00), Twenty-five Thousand Dollars
413 (\$25,000.00), Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or One Hundred
414 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) into retirement.

415 (b) Effective October 1, 1999, schedule of life
416 insurance benefits--group term: The amount of term life insurance
417 for each active employee of any school district, community/junior
418 college, public library, university-based program authorized under
419 Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed
420 children, or any regular nonstudent bus driver shall not be in



421 excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), or twice the
422 amount of the employee's annual wage to the next highest One
423 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever may be less, but in no
424 case less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), with a like
425 amount for accidental death and dismemberment on a
426 twenty-four-hour basis. The plan will further contain a premium
427 waiver provision if a covered employee of any school district,
428 community/junior college, public library, university-based program
429 authorized under Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and
430 emotionally disturbed children, or any regular nonstudent bus
431 driver becomes totally and permanently disabled before age
432 sixty-five (65) years. Employees of any school district,
433 community/junior college, public library or university-based
434 program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for deaf, aphasic and
435 emotionally disturbed children or any regular nonstudent bus
436 driver retiring after September 30, 1999, shall be eligible to
437 continue life insurance coverage in an amount of Ten Thousand
438 Dollars (\$10,000.00), Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00),
439 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or One Hundred Thousand
440 Dollars (\$100,000.00) into retirement.

441 (c) For the purposes of this subsection (3), the term
442 "annual wage" shall mean the amount listed as social security
443 wages on the employee's W-2 Form for the prior calendar year, or
444 the employee's current annual salary if the employee has been
445 employed for less than one (1) calendar year.

446 (4) Any eligible employee who on March 1, 1971, was
447 participating in a group life insurance program that has
448 provisions different from those included in this section and for
449 which the State of Mississippi was paying a part of the premium
450 may, at his discretion, continue to participate in that plan. The
451 employee shall pay in full all additional costs, if any, above the
452 minimum program established by this article. Under no
453 circumstances shall any individual who begins employment with the



454 state after March 1, 1971, be eligible for the provisions of this
455 paragraph.

456 (5) The board may offer medical savings accounts as defined
457 in Section 71-9-3 as a plan option.

458 (6) Any premium differentials, differences in coverages,
459 discounts determined by risk or by any other factors shall be
460 uniformly applied to all active employees participating in the
461 insurance plan. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
462 state contribution to the plan be the same for each employee
463 throughout the state.

464 (7) On October 1, 1999, any school district,
465 community/junior college district or public library may elect to
466 remain with an existing policy or policies of group life insurance
467 with an insurance company approved by the State and School
468 Employees Health Insurance Management Board, in lieu of
469 participation in the State and School Life Insurance Plan. The
470 state's contribution of up to fifty percent (50%) of the active
471 employee's premium under the State and School Life Insurance Plan
472 may be applied toward the cost of coverage for full-time employees
473 participating in the approved life insurance company group plan.
474 For purposes of this subsection (7), "life insurance company group
475 plan" means a plan administered or sold by a private insurance
476 company. After October 1, 1999, the board may assess charges in
477 addition to the existing State and School Life Insurance Plan
478 rates to those employees as a condition of enrollment in the State
479 and School Life Insurance Plan. In order for any life insurance
480 company group plan existing as of October 1, 1999, to be approved
481 by the State and School Employees Health Insurance Management
482 Board under this subsection (7), it shall meet the following
483 criteria:

484 (a) The insurance company offering the group life
485 insurance plan shall be rated "A-" or better by A.M. Best state
486 insurance rating service and be licensed as an admitted carrier in



487 the State of Mississippi by the Mississippi Department of
488 Insurance.

489 (b) The insurance company group life insurance plan
490 shall provide the same life insurance, accidental death and
491 dismemberment insurance and waiver of premium benefits as provided
492 in the State and School Life Insurance Plan.

493 (c) The insurance company group life insurance plan
494 shall be fully insured, and no form of self-funding life insurance
495 by such company shall be approved.

496 (d) The insurance company group life insurance plan
497 shall have one (1) composite rate per One Thousand Dollars
498 (\$1,000.00) of coverage for active employees regardless of age.

499 (e) The insurance company and its group life insurance
500 plan shall comply with any administrative requirements of the
501 State and School Employees Health Insurance Management Board. If
502 any insurance company providing group life insurance benefits to
503 employees under this subsection (7) fails to comply with any
504 requirements specified in this subsection or any administrative
505 requirements of the board, the state shall discontinue providing
506 funding for the cost of that insurance.

507 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
508 and after July 1, 2003.

