ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1569

BY: RICE and HUDSON of the HOUSE

and

BROWN of the SENATE

(STATE GOVERNMENT - AMENDING 74 O.S., SECTION 1306 - STATE AND EDUCATION EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE ACT -

EMERGENCY)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 1981, Section 1306, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 244, O.S.L. 1990 (74 O.S. Supp. 1990, Section 1306), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1306. (1) The State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall administer and manage the Group Insurance Plans and, subject to the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, Section 1301 et seq. of this title, shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) The preparation of specifications for such insurance plans as the Board may be directed to offer;

(b) The authority and duty to request bids through the Purchasing Division of the Office of Public Affairs, for a contract to be the claims administrator for all or any part of such insurance plans as the Board may be directed to offer;

(c) The determination of the methods of claims administration under such insurance plans as the Board may be directed to offer;

(d) The determination of the eligibility of employees and their dependents to participate in each of the Group Insurance Plans and in such other insurance plans as the Board may be directed to offer and the eligibility of employees other than education employees to participate in the Life Insurance Plan provided that evidence of insurability shall not be a requirement in determining an employee's initial eligibility;

(e) The determination of the amount of employee payroll deductions and the responsibility of establishing the procedure by which such deduction shall be made;

(f) The establishment of a grievance procedure by which a three-member grievance panel shall act as an appeals body for complaints by insured employees regarding the allowance and payment of claims, eligibility, and other matters. Except for grievances settled to the satisfaction of both parties prior to a hearing, any person who requests in writing a hearing before the grievance panel shall receive a hearing before the panel. The grievance procedure provided by this paragraph shall be the exclusive remedy available to insured employees having complaints against the insurer. Such grievance procedure shall be subject to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, Sections 301 through 325 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes including provisions thereof for review of agency decisions by the district court. The grievance panel shall schedule a hearing regarding the allowance and payment of claims, eligibility and other matters within sixty (60) days from the date the grievance panel receives a written request for a hearing unless the panel orders a continuance for good cause shown. Upon written request by the insured employee to the grievance panel and received not less than ten (10) days before the hearing date, the grievance panel shall

cause a full stenographic record of the proceedings to be made by a competent court reporter at the insured employee's expense;

(g) The continuing study of the operation of such insurance plans as the Board may be directed to offer including such matters as gross and net costs, administrative costs, benefits, utilization of benefits, and claims administration;

(h) The administration of the Health, Dental and Life Insurance Reserve Fund or Funds and the Education Employees Group Insurance Reserve Fund;

(i) The auditing of the claims paid pursuant to the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act;

(j) To select and contract with all federally qualified Health Maintenance Organizations under the provisions of 42 U.S.C., Section 300e et seq. for consideration by employees as an alternative to the state self-insured health plan, and to transfer to the HMOs such funds as may be approved for an employee electing HMO alternative services. The HMOs must be offered to state employees on an equal contribution basis with the state self-insured health plan;

(k) To assess and collect reasonable fees from such contracted and federally qualified HMOs to offset the costs of administration;

(l) To contract for re-insurance, catastrophic insurance, or any other type of insurance deemed necessary by the Board;

(m) The Board, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 301 through 325 of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall adopt such rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act as it deems necessary to carry out its statutory duties and responsibilities;

(n) The Board shall contract for claims administration services with a private insurance carrier or a company experienced in claims administration of any insurance that the Board may be directed to offer. No contract for claims administration services shall be made unless such contract has been offered for bids through the

Purchasing Division of the Office of Public Affairs. By July 1, 1991, the Board shall contract with a private insurance carrier or other experienced claims administrator to process claims with software that is normally used for its customers;

(o) The Board shall contract for utilization review services with a company experienced in utilization review, data base evaluation, market research, and planning and performance of the health insurance plan;

(p) The Board shall approve the amount of employee premiums and dependent premiums for such insurance plans as the Board shall be directed to offer for each fiscal year no later than December 1 of the previous fiscal year. The Board shall submit notice of the amount of employee premiums and dependent premiums along withan actuarial projection of the upcoming fiscal year's enrollment, employee contributions, employer contributions, investment earnings, paid claims, internal expenses, external expenses and changes in liabilities to the Director of the Office of State Finance and the Director of the Legislative Services Bureau no later than December 1 of the previous fiscal year. The actuarial projection shall include and disclose an estimate of the future trend of medical costs, the impact from HMO enrollment, antiselection, changes in law, and other contingencies that could impact the financial status of the plan;

(q) The Board shall establish a prescription drug card program network for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1990.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1991.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of March, 1991.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1991.

President of the Senate