

SHORT TITLE: State group insurance; Oklahoma State Employees
Benefits Act; clarifying reference; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE BILL NO. 850

By: Haney and Hobson of the
Senate

and

Hamilton and Steidley of
the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state group insurance; amending
Section 11, Chapter 400, O.S.L. 1992, as amended by
Section 11, Chapter 359, O.S.L. 1993 (74 O.S. Supp.
1995, Section 1371), which relates to the Oklahoma
State Employees Benefits Act; clarifying certain
references; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 11, Chapter 400, O.S.L.
1992, as amended by Section 11, Chapter 359, O.S.L. 1993 (74 O.S.
Supp. 1995, Section 1371), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1371. A. All participants must use a portion or all of
their flexible benefit allowance to purchase at least the basic
plan. On or before January 1 of each year, the Council shall design
the basic plan for the next plan year to insure that the basic plan
provides adequate coverage to all participants. All benefit plans,
whether offered by the Board, a health maintenance organization or
other vendors shall at least meet the minimum requirements set by
the Council for the basic plan.

B. The Board shall offer health, dental, disability, life and dental coverage to all participants and their dependents. For health, dental, disability and life coverage, the Board shall offer plans at the basic benefit level established by the Council, and in addition, may offer benefit plans that provide an enhanced level of benefits. The Board shall be responsible for determining the plan design and the benefit price for the plans that they offer. The benefits price for the basic plan during a plan year shall not exceed the flexible benefits allowance for the same plan year. The Council shall approve the plan designs to assure that they meet the minimum benefit levels.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the Board from offering additional medical plans, provided that any medical plan offered to participants shall meet or exceed the benefits provided in the medical portion of the basic plan.

C. In lieu of electing any of the preceding medical benefit plans, a participant may elect medical coverage by any health maintenance organization made available to participants by the Council. The benefit price of any health maintenance organization shall be determined annually by a sealed bid process conducted through the Central Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services. All plans offered by health maintenance organizations meeting the bid requirements as determined by the Council shall be accepted. Provided, however, the Council shall have the authority to reject the bid or restrict enrollment in any health maintenance organization for which the benefit price is determined to be excessive by the Council. In making such determination the Council shall examine the most recent financial data of the health maintenance organization and shall consider the prices charged for comparable plans offered to other groups. All bidders shall submit along with their bid a notarized, sworn statement as provided by

Section 85.22 of this title. The Council shall have the authority to reject any plan that does not meet the bid requirements.

D. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the Council from offering additional qualified benefit plans or currently taxable benefit plans.

E. Each employee of a participating employer who meets the eligibility requirements for participation in the flexible benefits plan shall make an annual election of benefits under the plan during an enrollment period to be held prior to the beginning of each plan year. ~~The enrollment~~ Enrollment period dates will be determined annually and will be announced by the Council, providing the enrollment period shall end no later than thirty (30) days before the beginning of the plan year.

Each such employee shall make an irrevocable advance election for the plan year or the remainder thereof pursuant to such procedures as the Council shall prescribe. Any such employee who fails to make a proper election under the plan shall, nevertheless, be a participant in the plan and shall be deemed to have purchased the default benefits described in this section.

F. The Council shall prescribe the forms that participants will be required to use in making their elections, and may prescribe deadlines and other procedures for filing the elections.

G. Any participant who, in the first year for which he or she is eligible to participate in the plan, fails to make a proper election under the plan in conformance with the procedures set forth in this section or as prescribed by the Council shall be deemed automatically to have purchased the default benefits. The default benefits shall be the same as the basic plan benefits. Any participant who, after having participated in the plan during the previous plan year, fails to make a proper election under the plan in conformance with the procedures set forth in this section or prescribed by the Council, shall be deemed automatically to have

purchased the same benefits which the participant purchased in the immediately preceding plan year, except that the participant shall not be deemed to have elected coverage under the health care reimbursement account plan or the dependent care reimbursement account plan;

H. Benefit plan contracts with the Board, health maintenance organizations, and other third party insurance vendors shall provide for a risk adjustment factor for adverse selection that may occur, as determined by the Council, based on generally accepted actuarial principles.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1996.

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.

45-2-1939

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