

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE BILL 1337

By: Hobson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools and state government; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 26-105, which relates to flexible benefit allowance for school district employees; providing specific dollar amounts as taxable compensation to certain employees that choose not to participate in certain plan; specifying flexible benefit allowance for certain employees at certain percentages of premium amounts; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1310.1, which relates to payment of health and dental insurance premiums for school district employees; increasing amount school district pays for health care coverage; modifying percentage to be reduced by certain allowance; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 26-105, is amended to read as follows:

Section 26-105. A. At a minimum, the flexible benefit allowance may be used by a school district employee that is participating in the cafeteria plan to purchase major medical health care plan coverage offered by the school district through a cafeteria plan, or the excess flexible benefit allowance may be used to purchase any of the additional benefits offered by the school district. ~~A school district employee that is not participating in the school district sponsored cafeteria plan, may elect to receive the flexible benefit allowance as taxable compensation~~ Certified personnel that choose not to participate in the school district sponsored cafeteria plan may elect to receive Sixty-nine Dollars and seventy-one cents (\$69.71) per month as taxable compensation in lieu of the flexible benefit allowance amount provided in subsection B of this section. Support personnel that choose not to participate in

the school district sponsored cafeteria plan may elect to receive One Hundred Eighty-nine Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$189.69) per month as taxable compensation in lieu of the flexible benefit allowance amount provided in subsection B of this section.

B. Each eligible school district employee shall be credited annually with a specified amount as a flexible benefit allowance which shall be available for the purchase of benefits. The amount of the flexible benefit allowance credited to each eligible school district employee shall be communicated to the employee prior to the enrollment period for each plan year.

1. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the flexible benefit allowance amount for certified personnel shall be no less than Sixty-nine Dollars and seventy-one cents (\$69.71) per month. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the flexible benefit allowance amount for support personnel shall be no less than One Hundred Eighty-six Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$186.69) per month.

2. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, the flexible benefit allowance amount for certified personnel shall be no less than fifty-eight percent (58%) of the premium amount for the Healthchoice (Hi) option plan for an individual offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and each fiscal year thereafter, the flexible benefit allowance amount for support personnel shall be no less than one hundred percent (100%) of the premium amount for the Healthchoice (Hi) option plan for an individual offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board.

3. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, the flexible benefit allowance amount for certified personnel shall be no less than eighty-three percent (83%) of the premium amount for the Healthchoice (Hi) option plan for an individual offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board.

C. If a school district employee who is participating in the cafeteria plan elects benefits whose sum total is less than the flexible benefit allowance, the employee shall receive any excess flexible benefit allowance as taxable compensation. Such taxable compensation shall be paid in substantially equal amounts each pay period over the plan year. On termination during a plan year, a participating school district employee shall have no right to receive any such taxable cash compensation allocated to the portion of the plan year after the termination of the employee.

D. Each school district employee 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 period dates will be determined annually and will be announced by the school district, providing the enrollment period shall end no later than thirty (30) days before the beginning of the plan year. Each such school district employee shall make an irrevocable advance election for the plan year or the remainder thereof pursuant to such procedures as the school district shall prescribe.

E. The school district shall prescribe the forms that school district employees shall be required to use in making their elections, and may prescribe deadlines and other procedures for filing the elections.

F. School district employees hired after the closing of the enrollment period shall be allowed to make an election as provided in this act.

G. A school district shall have the option of providing a flexible benefit allowance to the superintendent of that school district in an amount not more than the amount of the flexible benefit allowance established for certified personnel in subsection B of this section. Funding for the flexible benefit allowance for a superintendent shall be provided through local revenue.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1310.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1310.1 ~~4.~~ A. If a school district employee elects health care coverage under a plan offered by a school district, then a school district shall pay:

1. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the health care coverage of such employee;

2. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, a school district shall pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of the health care coverage of such employee; and

3. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, a school district shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the health care coverage of such employee.

The ~~fifty percent (50%) amount~~ percentage specified shall be reduced by the flexible benefit allowance provided for in Section ~~7~~ 26-105 of ~~this act~~ Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

~~2.~~ B. The premium for education entities that participate in the health and dental insurance plans offered through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act shall be the same as paid by state agencies for said plans.

~~3.~~ C. All education entities that participate in the insurance plans offered through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act shall forward the employer and employee premiums to the Board no later than the tenth day of each month following the month for which payment is due.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2002.

SECTION 4. 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.

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