

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL 1144

By: Corn

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

[insurance - 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 1303, 1306, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 196, O.S.L. 2002, 1308, 1315, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 370, O.S.L. 2003, 1316.2, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 370, O.S.L. 2003, 1316.3, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 326, O.S.L. 2003 and 1323 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Sections 1306, 1315, 1316.2 and 1316.3) - State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act - effective date -

emergency]

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1303, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1303. For the purposes of and as used in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act:

1. "Board" means the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board as created by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act;
2. "Employee" means those state employees, education employees and other eligible employees participating in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act;
3. "Education Employee" means those employees other than adjunct professors employed by a state institution of higher education, in the service of an education entity who are members or are or will be eligible to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma and who receive compensation for such service after the education entity begins to participate in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act and visiting

faculty who are not eligible for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma;

4. "Adjunct Professor" means a person employed by an institution of higher education who is attached in a subordinate or temporary capacity to the faculty or staff, and who is contracted to instruct in a given specific discipline;

5. "Visiting Faculty" means a person employed by an institution of higher education who is not eligible for academic rank or tenure, other than an adjunct professor, and who is contracted to instruct in a given specific discipline generally not to exceed one (1) academic year;

6. "Education Entity" means a school district, a technology center school district, or an institution comprising The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education;

7. "State Employee" means and includes each officer or employee in the service of the State of Oklahoma who, after January 1, 1966, received compensation for service rendered to the State of Oklahoma on a warrant issued pursuant to a payroll certified by a department or by an elected or duly appointed officer of the state or who receives payment for the performance of personal services on a warrant issued pursuant to a payroll certified by a department and drawn by the State Treasurer against appropriations made by the Legislature from any state fund or against trust funds held by the State Treasurer, who is employed in a position normally requiring actual performance of duty during not less than one thousand (1,000) hours per year, and whose employment is not seasonal or temporary, except that a person elected by popular vote will be considered an employee during the person's tenure in office; provided, however, that employees who are otherwise eligible who are on approved leave without pay shall be eligible to continue coverage during such leave not to exceed twenty-four (24) months, as provided in the Merit Rules for Employment published by the Office of Personnel

Management, from the date the employee goes on such leave provided the employee pays the full premiums due or persons who are drawing disability benefits under Section 1331 et seq. of this title or meet each and every requirement of the State Employees Disability Program shall be eligible to continue coverage provided the person pays the full premiums due;

8. "Carrier" means the State of Oklahoma or a state designated Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Such HMO shall be a federally qualified Health Maintenance Organization under 42 U.S.C., Section 300e et seq.;

9. "Health Insurance Plan" means a self-insured plan by the State of Oklahoma for the purpose of paying the cost of hospital and medical care up to the maximum coverage provided by said plan or prepaid medical plan(s) offered to employees as an alternative to the state-administered plan by federally qualified HMOs which have contracted with the state;

10. "Life Insurance Plan" means a self-insured plan for the purpose of paying death and dismemberment benefits up to the maximum coverage provided by the plan;

11. "Dental Benefits Plan" means a plan by the State of Oklahoma for the purpose of paying the cost of dental care up to the maximum coverage provided by the plan; whenever the term "Dental Insurance Plan" or a term of like import appears in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, the term shall mean "Dental Benefits Plan";

12. "Other insurance" means any type of coverage other than basic hospital and medical benefits, major medical benefits, comprehensive benefits, life insurance benefits or dental insurance benefits, which the Board may be directed to offer;

13. "Dependent" means an employee's spouse or any unmarried child (1) under the age of nineteen (19) years, regardless of residence, provided that the employee is primarily responsible for

their support, including (a) an adopted child and (b) a stepchild or child who lives with the employee in a regular parent-child relationship, or (2) under the age of twenty-five (25) and who is dependent upon the employee for support who is enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited secondary school, college, university, or institution of higher learning accredited by the State Department of Education, State Board of Career and Technology Education, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools, and (3) regardless of age who is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity that existed prior to reaching the age of nineteen (19) years;

14. "Comprehensive benefits" means benefits which reimburse the expense of hospital room and board, other hospital services, certain outpatient expenses, maternity benefits, surgical expense, including obstetrical care, in-hospital medical care expense, diagnostic radiological and laboratory benefits, physicians' services provided by house and office calls, treatments administered in physicians' office, prescription drugs, psychiatric services, Christian Science practitioners' services, Christian Science nurses' services, optometric medical services for injury or illness of the eye, home health care, home nursing service, hospice care, and such other benefits as may be determined by the Board. Such benefits shall be provided on a copayment or coinsurance basis, the insured to pay a proportion of the cost of such benefits, and may be subject to a deductible that applies to all or part of the benefits as determined by the Board; and

15. "Life insurance coverage" shall include a maximum amount of basic life insurance or benefit with or without a double indemnity provision and an amount of accidental death and dismemberment insurance or benefit per employee ~~other than education employees~~ to be provided by the State of Oklahoma, and the employee ~~other than an education employee~~ shall have the option to purchase additional life

insurance or benefits on the employee's life up to the amount provided by the plan. Such basic life insurance benefits, with or without double indemnity, and accidental death and dismemberment benefits shall not exclude coverage for death or dismemberment resulting from war, insurrection or riot. The Board may also extend dependent life insurance in an amount to be determined by the Board to each insured employee ~~other than an education employee~~ who elects to insure the employee's eligible dependents. Premiums for the dependent life insurance shall be paid wholly by the employee ~~other than an education employee~~.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1306, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 196, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1306), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1306. The State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall administer and manage the group insurance plans and the flexible benefits plan and, subject to the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, ~~Section 1301 et seq.~~ and the State Employees Flexible Benefits Act, ~~Section 1341 et seq.~~ ~~of this title~~, shall have the following powers and duties:

1. The preparation of specifications for such insurance plans as the Board may determine to be appropriate;
2. The authority and duty to request bids through the Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services for a contract to be the claims administrator for all or any part of such insurance and benefit plans as the Board may offer;
3. The determination of the methods of claims administration under such insurance and benefit plans as the Board may offer;
4. The determination of the eligibility of employees and their dependents to participate in each of the Group Insurance Plans and in such other insurance and benefit plans as the Board may 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;

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

6. 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, Section 250 et seq. 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;

7. The continuing study of the operation of such insurance and benefit plans as the Board may offer including such matters as gross and net costs, administrative costs, benefits, utilization of benefits, and claims administration;

8. The administration of the Health, Dental and Life Insurance Reserve Fund or Funds, the Flexible Benefits Revolving Fund and the Education Employees Group Insurance Reserve Fund;

9. The auditing of the claims paid pursuant to the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, the State Employees Flexible Benefits Act and the State Employees Disability Program Act;

10. a. To select and contract with federally qualified Health Maintenance Organizations under the provisions of 42 U.S.C., Section 300e et seq. or with Health Maintenance Organizations licensed by the Department of Health pursuant to Sections 2501 through 2510 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes 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. Such HMOs may offer coverage through a point-of-service plan, subject to the guidelines established by the Board.

b. Benefit plan contracts with the State and Education Employees Group Insurance 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 Board, based on generally accepted actuarial principles. The risk adjustment factor shall include all members participating in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. The Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council shall contract with an actuary to provide the above actuarial services, and shall be reimbursed for these contract expenses by the Board.

c. Effective for the plan year beginning July 1, 1997, and for each year thereafter, in setting health insurance premiums for active employees and for retirees under sixty-five (65) years of age, HMOs, self-insured organizations and prepaid plans shall set the monthly premium for active employees at a maximum of Ninety Dollars (\$90.00) less than the monthly premium for retirees under sixty-five (65) years of age;

11. To contract for reinsurance, catastrophic insurance, or any other type of insurance deemed necessary by the Board. Provided, however, that the Board shall not offer a health plan which is owned or operated by the state and which utilizes a capitated payment plan for providers which uses a primary care physician as a gatekeeper to any specialty care provided by physician-specialists, unless specifically authorized by the Legislature;

12. The Board, pursuant to the provisions of Section 250 et seq. of Title 75 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall adopt such rules 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. Emergency Rules adopted by the Board and approved by the Governor which are in effect on the first day of the Regular Session of the Oklahoma Legislature shall not become null and void until January 15 of the subsequent calendar year;

13. 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 Department of Central Services. 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;

14. 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;

15. The Board shall approve the amount of employee premiums and dependent premiums for such insurance plans as the Board shall offer for ~~each~~ the next plan year no later than the bid submission date for health maintenance organizations set by the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council, which ~~for plan year beginning July 1, 2001, shall be set no later than the third Friday of December of the previous fiscal year. The next plan year shall begin January 1, 2002, and on January 1 each year thereafter. For plan year beginning January 1, 2002, and for each year thereafter, the submission date shall be set no later than the third Friday of August of the previous year.~~ Except as otherwise provided for in Section 1321 of this title, the Board shall not have the authority to adjust the premium rates after approval. The Board shall submit notice of the amount of employee premiums and dependent premiums along with an 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 Service Bureau no later than March 1 of the previous fiscal year.

In setting health insurance premiums for active employees and retirees under sixty-five (65) years of age, the Board shall set the monthly premium for active employees at a maximum of Ninety Dollars (\$90.00) less than the monthly premium for retirees under sixty-five (65) years of age;

16. Before December 1 of each year the Board shall submit to the Director of the Office of State Finance a report outlining the financial condition for the previous fiscal year of all insurance plans offered by the Board. The report shall include a complete explanation of all reserve funds and the actuarial projections on the need for such reserves. The report 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. The Director of the Office of State Finance shall make written comment on the report and shall provide such comment, along with the report submitted by the Board, to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chair of the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council by January 15;

17. The Board shall establish a prescription drug card network;

18. The Board shall have the authority to intercept monies owing to plan participants from other state agencies, when those participants in turn, owe money to the Board. The Board shall be required to adopt rules and regulations ensuring the participants due process of law;

19. The Board is authorized to make available to eligible employees supplemental health care benefit plans to include but not be limited to long-term care, deductible reduction plans and employee co-payment reinsurance. Premiums for said plans shall be actuarially based and the cost for such supplemental plans shall be paid by the employee; ~~and~~

20. There is hereby created as a joint committee of the State Legislature, the Joint Liaison Committee on State and Education Employees Group Insurance Benefits, which Joint Committee shall consist of three members of the Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore thereof and three members of the House of

Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker thereof. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee shall be appointed from the membership thereof by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, one of whom shall be a member of the Senate and the other shall be a member of the House of Representatives. At the beginning of the first regular session of each Legislature, starting in 1991, the Chair shall be from the Senate; thereafter the chairship shall alternate every two (2) years between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Joint Liaison Committee on State and Education Employees Group Insurance Benefits shall function as a committee of the State Legislature when the Legislature is in session and when the Legislature is not in session. Each appointed member of said committee shall serve until his or her successor is appointed.

The Joint Liaison Committee on State and Education Employees Group Insurance Benefits shall serve as a liaison with the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board regarding advice, guidance, policy, management, operations, plans, programs and fiscal needs of said Board. Said Board shall not be bound by any action of the Joint Committee; and

21. The State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall annually collect its own set of performance measures comparable to the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) for the purpose of assessing the quality of its HealthChoice plans and the other services it provides.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1308, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1308. (1) Any employee ~~other than an education employee~~ eligible for membership in the Health Insurance Plan, Dental Insurance Plan or Life Insurance Plan upon its effective date shall be enrolled in the plan unless he or she elects not to be

enrolled within thirty (30) days of such effective dates. The employee shall be advised of Health Maintenance Organization prepaid plans available as an alternative to the state self-insured Health Insurance Plan. The Board shall establish the procedure by which eligible employees not electing to be enrolled initially in the Health Insurance Plan, Dental Insurance Plan or Life Insurance Plan may be subsequently enrolled.

(2) Any eligible employee ~~other than an education employee~~ who is employed after the effective dates of the Health Insurance Plan, Dental Insurance Plan and Life Insurance Plan or HMO plans approved by the Board may become enrolled on the first day of the second month of employment.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1315, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 370, O.S.L. 2003 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1315), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1315. A. Upon application in writing and subject to any underwriting criteria that may be established by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, the Board may extend the benefits of the State and Education Employees Group Health and Life Insurance Plans to employees who are employed in positions requiring actual performance of duty during not less than one thousand (1,000) hours per year and to all full-time employees of:

1. Any of the following groups which participate in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System:

- a. county,
- b. city,
- c. town,
- d. public trust for which the state is the primary beneficiary, or
- e. conservation districts; and

2. Any of the following groups:

- a. county hospital,

- b. rural water district, including employees and board members,
- c. sewer district,
- d. gas district,
- e. solid waste management district,
- f. nonprofit water corporation,
- g. conservancy district or master conservancy district authorized by the provisions of Section 541 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- h. voluntary organization of Oklahoma local government jurisdictions listed in Section 2003 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes including any council created by the voluntary organizations,
- i. voluntary association designated to administer the County Government Council as authorized in Section 7 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or
- j. statewide nonprofit entities representing employees of the state or employees of local political subdivisions who are eligible for insurance benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act.

B. Applications to participate in the State and Education Employees Group Health and Life Insurance Plans shall be approved by majority action of the governing body of the groups listed in subsection A of this section.

C. Groups listed in subsection A of this section participating in the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Health and Life Insurance Plans shall pay all costs attributable to their participation. The benefits of said plans for a participant provided coverage pursuant to this section shall be the same and shall include the same plan options as would be made available to a state employee participating in the plan that resided at the same

location. The premium for participating groups listed in subsection A of this section shall be the same as paid by state and education employees.

D. Participating groups listed in subsection A of this section shall not be required to offer dental insurance as defined in paragraph (11) of Section 1303 of this title, or other insurance as defined in paragraph (12) of Section 1303 of this title. However, if dental insurance or any other insurance is offered, it must be provided to all eligible employees. If an employee retires and begins to receive benefits from the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System or ~~terminates service~~ and has a vested benefit with the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the employee may elect, in the manner provided in Section 1316.2 of this title, to participate in the dental insurance plan offered through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of employment. The employee shall pay the full cost of the dental insurance.

E. 1. Any employee of a group listed in subsection A of this section who retires or who has a vested benefit pursuant to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System may begin the health insurance coverage if the employer of the employee is not a participant of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act and does not offer health insurance to its employees. Such election by the employee to begin coverage shall be made within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service.

2. Any employee of a group listed in subsection A of this section who retires or who has a vested benefit pursuant to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System may begin or continue the health insurance coverage if the employer of the employee is a participant of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act and the election to begin or continue coverage is made within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service.

F. Any county, city, town, county hospital, public trust, conservation district, or rural water, sewer, gas or solid waste management district, or nonprofit water corporation, any of which of the aforementioned groups is not a participating employer in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, but which has employees who are participating in the health, dental or life insurance plans offered by or through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act on July 1, 1997, may continue to allow its current and future employees to participate in such health, dental or life insurance plans. Participation of such employees may also continue following ~~retirement or~~ termination of employment if the employee has completed at least eight (8) years of service with a participating employer and such an election to continue in force is made within thirty (30) days following ~~retirement or~~ termination of employment. Any retiree or terminated employee electing coverage pursuant to this section shall pay the full cost of the insurance.

G. An employee of a group listed in paragraph 2 of subsection A of this section may continue in force health, dental and life insurance coverage following ~~retirement or~~ termination of employment if the employee ~~who has retired or terminated employment~~ has a minimum of eight (8) years of service with a participating employer and the election to continue in force is made within thirty (30) calendar days following ~~retirement or~~ termination of employment.

H. Notwithstanding other provisions in this section, an employer listed in subsection A of this section may cease to participate in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act but provide health insurance coverage for its current and former employees through another insurance carrier. The subsequent carrier shall be responsible for providing coverage to the entity's employees who terminated employment with a retirement benefit, with a vested benefit, or who have eight (8) or more years of service with a participating employer but did not have a vested benefit

through the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, if the election to retain health insurance coverage was made within thirty (30) days of termination of employment. Coverage shall also be provided to the eligible dependents of the employees if an election to retain coverage is made within thirty (30) days of termination of employment. Employees who terminate employment from an employer covered by this paragraph before December 31, 2001, and elect coverage under the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, shall not be required to change insurance carriers in the event that the employer changes its insurance carrier to a subsequent carrier. The provisions of this subsection shall become effective January 1, 2002.

I. Employers pursuant to subsection A of this section who participate in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System and who offer health insurance coverage to their active employees, shall offer health insurance coverage to those employees who retire from the employer and also to those employees who terminate employment and are eligible to elect a vested benefit in the System. Such employers shall begin offering coverage to such employees on or before January 1, 2004. Such employees who wish to continue coverage shall make an election to retain health insurance coverage within thirty (30) days of termination of employment. However, former employees of such employers who have already retired or who have terminated and are eligible to elect a vested benefit under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, during the period beginning January 1, 2002, and ending December 31, 2003, may make an election to begin participation in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board on or before December 31, 2003, in the same manner as other participating retired or vested members. The employer, assisted by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System shall notify by October 1, 2003, all members who have either retired from the System or who are eligible

to elect a vested benefit in the System between January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2003, and who were employed by an employer listed in subsection A of this section of the member's potential eligibility to participate in such plans. Each employer shall notify the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System when an employee is retiring and makes the election pursuant to this subsection to continue coverage under a plan offered by such employer and when an employee terminates employment and is eligible to elect a vested benefit in the System and such employee elects to continue coverage under a plan offered by such employer. Such employer shall also notify the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System if a retired employee or an employee who is eligible to elect a vested benefit in the System terminates such continued coverage.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1316.2, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 370, O.S.L. 2003 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1316.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1316.2 (1) Any employee other than an education employee who retires pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System or who has a vested benefit pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System may continue in force the health and dental insurance benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, or other employer insurance benefits if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, if such election to continue in force is made within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service. Health insurance benefits offered pursuant to this section shall include the state indemnity plan, managed care plans offered in alternative to the state indemnity plan, Medicare supplements offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board which shall include prescription drug coverage, other employer plans if the employer

does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, and Medicare risk-sharing contracts offered in alternative to the Board's Medicare supplement.

Provided, all Medicare risk-sharing contracts shall be subject to a risk adjustment factor, based on generally accepted actuarial principals for adverse selection which may occur. Except as otherwise provided for in Section 840-2.27I of this title, health and dental insurance coverage may not be reinstated at a later time if the election to continue in force is declined. Vested employees other than education employees who have terminated service and are not receiving benefits and effective July 1, 1996, nonvested persons who have terminated service with more than eight (8) years of participating service with a participating employer, who within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service elect to continue such coverage, shall pay the full cost of said insurance premium at the rate and pursuant to the terms and conditions established by the Board. Provided also, any employee other than an education employee who commences employment with a participating employer on or after September 1, 1991, who terminates service with such employer on or after July 1, 1996, but who otherwise has insufficient years of service to retire or terminate service with a vested benefit pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System or to elect to continue coverage as a nonvested employee as provided in this section, but who, immediately prior to employment with the participating employer was covered as a dependent on the health and dental insurance policy of a spouse who was an active employee other than an education employee, may count as part of his or her credited service for the purpose of determining eligibility to elect to continue coverage under this section, the time during which said terminating employee was covered as such a dependent.

(2) A retired employee other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System after September 30, 1988, is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is not otherwise eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan shall pay the premium rate for the health insurance minus an amount equal to the premium rate of the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), whichever is less, which shall be paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System to the Board or other insurance carrier if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section.

(3) A retired employee other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System after September 30, 1988, is sixty-five (65) years of age or older or who is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan and elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or other employer plan if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), or the premium rate of the Medicare supplement, whichever is less, paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System to the Board or other insurance carrier of the employer if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System does not cover the full cost of the Medicare supplement, the retired employee shall pay to the Board

or other insurance carrier of the employer if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage. If such retiree elects coverage under any Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retiree shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00) or the premium rate of the Medicare risk-sharing contract selected by the retiree, whichever is less, paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System to the Board or other insurance carrier of the employer if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System does not cover the full cost of the Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retired employee shall pay to the Board or other insurance carrier of the employer if the employer does not participate in the plans offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

(4) (a) A retired employee or surviving spouse other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System after September 30, 1988, is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is not otherwise eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan shall pay the premium rate for the health insurance minus an amount equal to the premium rate of the Non-Medicare offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), whichever is less, which shall be paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section.

(b) For any member of the System killed in the line of duty, whether the member was killed in the line of duty prior to the

effective date of this act or on or after the effective date of this act, or if the member was on a disability leave status at the time of death, the surviving spouse or dependents of such deceased member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System may elect to continue or commence health and dental insurance benefits provided said dependents pay the full cost of such insurance and for deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2002, such election is made within thirty (30) days of the date of death. ~~The eligibility for said benefits shall terminate for the surviving spouse when said spouse remarries or becomes eligible for another group health insurance plan.~~ The eligibility for said benefits shall terminate for the surviving children when said children cease to qualify as dependents.

(5) A retired employee other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System after September 30, 1988, is sixty-five (65) years of age or older or who is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan and elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), or the premium rate of the Medicare supplement, whichever is less, paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System does not cover the full cost of the Medicare supplement, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage. If such retiree elects coverage under any Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retiree shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00) or the premium rate of the Medicare risk-sharing contract selected by the retiree, whichever is less, paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to the

Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System does not cover the full cost of the Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

(6) A retired employee other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges after September 30, 1988, is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is not otherwise eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan shall pay the premium rate for the health insurance minus an amount equal to the premium rate of the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), whichever is less, which shall be paid by the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section.

(7) A retired employee other than an education employee who is receiving benefits from the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges after September 30, 1988, is sixty-five (65) years of age or older or who is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to continue the health insurance plan and elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00), or the premium rate of the Medicare supplement, whichever is less, paid by the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges does not cover the full cost of the Medicare supplement, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

If such retiree elects coverage under any Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retiree shall have One Hundred Five Dollars (\$105.00) or the premium rate of the Medicare risk-sharing contract selected by the retiree, whichever is less, paid by the Uniform Retirement System for the Justices and Judges to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section. If the amount paid by the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges does not cover the full cost of the Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

(8) Dependents of a deceased employee ~~other than an education employee~~ who was on active work status or on a disability leave at the time of death or of a participating retirant or of any person who has elected to receive a vested benefit under the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges or the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System may continue the health and dental insurance benefits in force provided said dependents pay the full cost of such insurance and they were covered as eligible dependents at the time of such death and such election is made within thirty (30) days of date of death. The eligibility for said benefits shall terminate for the surviving children when said children cease to qualify as dependents.

(9) The amounts required to be paid by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges and the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System pursuant to this section shall be forwarded no later than the tenth day of each month following the month for which payment is due by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees or the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Board to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board for deposit in the Health, Dental and Life Insurance Reserve Fund or to another insurance

carrier as provided for in subsection H of Section 1315 of this title.

(10) Upon retirement from employment of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, any person who was or is employed at the George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute and who transferred employment pursuant to Section 3427 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, any person who was employed at the Medical Technology and Research Authority and who transferred employment pursuant to Section 7068 of this title, and any person who is a member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System pursuant to the authority of Section 2-314 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes may participate in the benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act for retired participants, including health, dental and life insurance benefits, if such election to participate is made within thirty (30) days from the date of ~~retirement~~ termination of service. Life insurance benefits for any such person who transferred employment shall not exceed the coverage the person had at the time of such transfer. Retirees who transferred employment and who participate pursuant to this paragraph shall pay the premium for elected benefits less any amounts paid by a state retirement system pursuant to this section.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1316.3, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 326, O.S.L. 2003 (74 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1316.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1316.3 (1) Any person who retires pursuant to the provisions of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma with at least ten (10) years of creditable service or who has a vested benefit with at least ten (10) years of creditable service, pursuant to the provisions of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma may continue in force the health and dental insurance benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act if such election to continue in force or begin

is made within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service. Health insurance benefits offered pursuant to this section shall include the state indemnity plan, managed care plans offered in alternative to the state indemnity plan, Medicare supplements offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board which shall include prescription drug coverage, and Medicare risk-sharing contracts offered in alternative to the Board's Medicare supplement. Provided, all Medicare risk-sharing contracts shall be subject to a risk adjustment factor, based on generally accepted actuarial principals for adverse selection which may occur. Except as provided in subsection E of Sections 5-117.5 and 14-108.1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and Section 840-2.27I of this title and subsection (10) of this section, health and dental insurance coverage may not be reinstated at a later time if the election to continue in force or begin coverage is declined. Vested persons who have terminated service and are not receiving benefits and effective July 1, 1996, nonvested persons who have terminated service with more than ten (10) years of participating service with a qualifying employer, who within thirty (30) days from the date of termination of service, elect to continue such coverage, shall pay the full cost of said insurance premium at the rate and pursuant to the terms and conditions established by the Board.

(2) (a) A retired person who is receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma after September 30, 1988, is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is not otherwise eligible for Medicare and pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects to begin or to continue the health insurance plan shall pay the premium rate for the health insurance minus an amount equal to the premium rate of the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, whichever is less, which shall be

paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (8) of this section.

(b) A retired person who is receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma after June 30, 1993, is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is not otherwise eligible for Medicare and participates in a health insurance plan provided by a participating education employer of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma other than a health insurance plan offered pursuant to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act or an alternative health plan offered pursuant to the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Act shall pay the premium rate for the health insurance minus an amount equal to the premium rate of the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, whichever is less, which shall be paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to said education employer that provides the health insurance plan to said retired person.

(3) (a) A retired person who is receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma after September 30, 1988, made contributions to the system and is sixty-five (65) years of age or older, or who is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is eligible for Medicare and is a participant in the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act and elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, shall have the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, or the premium rate of the Medicare supplement, whichever is less, paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (8) of this section. If the amount paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma does not cover the full cost of the Medicare supplement, the retired person shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired person wants to continue the

coverage. If such retiree elects coverage under any Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retiree shall have the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section or the premium rate of the Medicare risk-sharing contract selected by the retiree, whichever is less, paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (8) of this section. If the amount paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma does not cover the full cost of the Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

(b) A retired person who is receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma after June 30, 1993, made contributions to the system and is sixty-five (65) years of age or older, or who is under sixty-five (65) years of age and is eligible for Medicare and participates in a health insurance plan provided by a participating education employer of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma other than a health insurance plan offered pursuant to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act or an alternative health plan offered pursuant to the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Act and elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, shall have the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, or the premium rate of the Medicare supplement, whichever is less, paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the education employer that provides the health insurance plan to said retired person. If the amount paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma does not cover the full cost of the Medicare supplement, the retired person shall pay to said employer the remaining amount if the retired person wants to continue the coverage. If such retiree elects coverage under any Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retiree shall have the amount determined pursuant to subsection (4) of this section or the premium

rate of the Medicare risk-sharing contract selected by the retiree, whichever is less, paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (8) of this section. If the amount paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma does not cover the full cost of the Medicare risk-sharing contract, the retired employee shall pay to the Board the remaining amount if the retired employee wants to continue coverage.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2000, the maximum benefit payable by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma on behalf of a retired person toward said person's monthly premium for health insurance shall be determined in accordance with the following schedule:

AVERAGE SALARY USED FOR DETERMINING RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	LESS THAN		
	LESS THAN 15 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE	25 YEARS BUT GREATER THAN 14.99 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE	GREATER THAN 24.99 YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE
Less than \$20,000.00	\$103.00	\$104.00	\$105.00
Less than \$30,000.00 but greater than \$19,999.99	\$102.00	\$103.00	\$104.00
Less than \$40,000.00 but greater than \$29,999.99	\$101.00	\$102.00	\$103.00
\$40,000.00 or greater	\$100.00	\$101.00	\$102.00

(5) If a person retires and begins to receive benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma or terminates service and has a vested benefit with the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma, the person may elect, in the manner provided in subsection (1) of this section, to participate in the dental insurance plan offered through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act. The person shall pay the full cost of the dental insurance.

(6) Those persons who are receiving benefits from the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma and have health insurance coverage

which on the operative date of this section is being paid by the education entity from which the person retired shall make the election required in subsection (1) of this section within thirty (30) days of the termination of said health insurance coverage. The person making the election shall give the Board certified documentation satisfactory to the Board of the termination date of the other health insurance coverage.

(7) Dependents of a deceased education employee who was on active work status or on a disability leave at the time of death or of a participating retirant or of any person who has elected to receive a vested benefit under the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma may continue the health and dental insurance benefits in force provided said dependents pay the full cost of such insurance and they were covered as eligible dependents at the time of such death and such election is made within thirty (30) days of date of death. The eligibility for said benefits shall terminate for the surviving children when said children cease to qualify as dependents.

(8) The amounts required to be paid by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma pursuant to this section shall be forwarded no later than the tenth day of each month following the month for which payment is due by the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board for deposit in the Education Employees Group Insurance Reserve Fund.

(9) The Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma shall provide the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board information concerning the employers of retired and vested members necessary to allow the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to track eligibility for continued coverage.

(10) Upon retirement from employment with the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, any person who is or was employed at

the George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute and who transferred employment pursuant to Section 3427 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, any person who was employed at the Medical Technology and Research Authority and who transferred employment pursuant to Section 7068 of this title, and any person who is a member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System pursuant to the authority of Section 2-314 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes may participate in the benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act for retired participants, including health, dental and life insurance benefits, if such election to participate is made within thirty (30) days from the date of ~~retirement~~ termination of employment. Life insurance benefits for any such person who transferred employment shall not exceed the coverage the person had at the time of such transfer. Retirees who are persons transferred employment and who participate pursuant to this paragraph shall pay the premium for elected benefits less any amounts paid by the retirement system pursuant to this section.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1323, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1323. Any person who shall knowingly make any false statement, or who shall falsify or permit to be falsified any record necessary for carrying out the intent of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, Section 1301 et seq. of this title, for the purpose of committing fraud, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment for not exceeding one (1) year or by both the fine and imprisonment. The State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board shall have the right to audit participating employer groups to verify eligibility for any member and/or dependent and may require proof of eligibility upon demand.

SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2004.

SECTION 9. 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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