

An Act relating to insurance; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 1302, 1303, and 1306, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 196, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1306), which relate to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board; adding purposes; adding definitions; deleting reference; amending powers and duties of the Board; amending form; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 1382, 1383, and 1384, which relate to the Wellness Council; deleting references to the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council; providing effective date for certain transfer; transferring Wellness Council; transferring certain positions to the Board with no lapse of benefits and at same job level and rate of pay; requiring the Board to make certain designation; transferring certain fund to the Board; amending references; requiring establishment of flexible benefits plan; requiring certain participation; providing for interpretations; authorizing adoption of rules; requiring consistent and uniform application of rules and decisions; allowing Board to rely on specified information; allowing for outside contracts and specifying certain criteria thereto; limiting certain expenses; excluding certain income adjustments from withholding; authorizing modification or abolishment of certain inclusions and exclusions under certain circumstances; stating eligibility requirements; providing for termination of benefits; defining flexible benefits allowance; crediting annually certain allowance; providing for communication; setting amount of flexible benefit allowances; allowing certain payments for certain coverage; allowing purchase of excess benefits; providing for treatment of excess flexible benefit allowance; requiring certain coverage; requiring minimum plan purchase; construing provisions of law; requiring the Board to design the basic plan and stating criteria; allowing alternate election of medical health coverage; requiring health maintenance organizations and other vendors to meet certain requirements; providing for responsibilities of the Board; permitting additional medical plans; allowing participation in health maintenance organizations; requiring certain bidding procedures; permitting certain additional plans; providing for annual election; providing for enrollment period; providing for certain irrevocable advance election; providing certain default benefits; providing forms and other procedures; providing for treatment of certain default benefits; placing requirements on Board for claims payment; requiring claimants to provide certain information; providing for notice of claim denial; establishing appeal process; requiring development of service areas; exempting participating health maintenance organizations from offering enrollment in every service area, and from being mandated to offer a Medicare supplement plan; providing exception; requiring participating health maintenance organization to meet standardized benefit plan; allowing participating health maintenance organizations to offer certain enhancements; providing maximum time period for payment of premiums; establishing fiduciary responsibilities for the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board; ensuring participants have options on vision plans; requiring certain vision plans be offered; providing date for notification by vision plans; establishing criteria for vision plan participation; applying administrative fees equally; restricting imposition of additional requirements; abolishing the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council; transferring duties and funds; requiring the Board to make certain determination; requiring certain study be forwarded to the Office of Personnel Management; providing for use of study; requiring notice; providing for severance benefits; specifying funds from which severance benefits shall be paid; providing for priority reemployment status; providing for transfer of certain employees at same job level and rate of pay and without lapse of benefits; repealing 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, as amended

by Section 5, Chapter 196, O.S.L. 2002, 1365, as amended by Section 9, Chapter 439, O.S.L. 2002, 1366, Section 10, Chapter 439, O.S.L. 2002, Section 3, Chapter 489, O.S.L. 2002, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, and Section 1, Chapter 501, O.S.L. 2002 (74 O.S. Supp. 2002, Sections 1365, 1366.1, 1366.2 and 1374), which relate to the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Act; providing for codification; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.