

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 528

By: Eason McIntyre

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to health insurance; amending 74 O.S. 2001, Sections 1316.2, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 345, O.S.L. 2004, and 1316.3, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 345, O.S.L. 2004 (74 O.S. Supp. 2004, Sections 1316.2 and 1316.3), which relate to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board; allowing continuance of coverage; requiring election; requiring payment; providing references to new subsection; updating references; clarifying that certain retirement system members who reinstate health insurance coverage shall have any applicable amounts required to be paid by the retirement system paid to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board; allowing certain retired or vested members of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges, the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System and the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System to elect coverage under certain circumstances; providing for payment of premiums; subjecting participant to rate changes; allowing election for dependent coverage; providing notice; providing references; amending reference; allowing certain retired or vested members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to elect coverage under certain circumstances; providing for payment of premiums; subjecting participant to rate changes; allowing election for dependent coverage; providing notice; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1316.2, as last amended by Section 5, Chapter 345, O.S.L. 2004 (74 O.S. Supp. 2004, 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 or as provided in subsection (10) of this section. 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 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 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 or elect pursuant to subsection (10) of this section to reinstate 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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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~~ March 19, 2003, or on or after ~~the effective date of this act~~ March 19, 2003, 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 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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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. Effective July 1, 2004, a retired member of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System who retired from the System by means of a personal and traumatic injury of a catastrophic nature and in the line of duty and any surviving spouse of such retired member and any surviving spouse of a member who was killed in the line of duty shall have one hundred percent (100%) of the retired member's or surviving spouse's health care premium cost, whether the member or surviving spouse elects coverage under the Medicare supplement or Medicare risk-sharing contract, paid by the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement

System to the Board in the manner specified in subsection (9) of this section.

(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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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 or pursuant to subsection (10) of this section elects to reinstate coverage in 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 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 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) Any employee who retires or who has elected a vested benefit pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges, the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System and the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System and who was participating in a qualified state plan at the time the employee retired or elected a vested benefit, and who does not elect to continue coverage or who later ends coverage because such person is being covered on other group insurance either as a primary or as a dependent may, only one time, within thirty (30) days of a loss of coverage, or sixty (60) days from the effective date of this act if the employee retired or elected a vested benefit prior to the effective date of this act, elect to be covered again under the health and dental insurance benefits and all other benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act. Any former employee who reinstates health insurance coverage pursuant to this subsection shall pay the cost of the insurance premium as provided in this section and pursuant to the rules and enrollment procedures established by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. Such former employee shall be subject to the same rate changes as those made available to all other vested or retired participants. Such former employee may elect coverage for his or her current dependents if the election is made within thirty (30) days of reinstatement of health insurance. The Board shall notify the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System and the Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges upon a member's reinstatement of health care coverage, so that the retirement system can timely make any applicable payments to the Board.

(11) 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 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 2. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 1316.3, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 345, O.S.L. 2004 (74 O.S. Supp. 2004, 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 or as provided in subsection (11) of this section. 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)~~ (11) 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 or pursuant to subsection (11) of this section elects to reinstate 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 or pursuant to subsection (11) of this section elects to reinstate coverage, 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 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section elects coverage under the Medicare supplement offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or pursuant to subsection (11) of this section elects to reinstate coverage, 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 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.

(11) Any employee who retires or elects a vested benefit pursuant to the provisions of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma and who was participating in a qualified state plan at the time such employee retired or elected a vested benefit and who does not elect to continue coverage or who later ends coverage because such person is being covered on other group insurance either as a primary or as a dependent, may, only one time within thirty (30) days of a loss of coverage, elect to again be covered under the health and dental insurance benefits and all other benefits authorized by the provisions of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act. Any former employee who reinstates health

insurance coverage pursuant to this subsection shall pay the cost of the insurance premium as provided in this section and pursuant to the rules and enrollment procedures established by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. Such former employee shall be subject to the same rate changes as those made available to all other vested or retired participants. Such former employee may elect coverage for his or her current dependents if the election is made within thirty (30) days of reinstatement of health insurance. The Board shall notify the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma upon a member's reinstatement of health care coverage so that the retirement system can timely make any applicable payments to the Board.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

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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