

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 28

5 By: Senator J. Jeffress
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7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE RETIREES WITH THE OPTION TO
10 RESUME HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE
11 AND PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT
12 PROGRAM IF PREVIOUSLY COVERED UNDER THE SPOUSE'S
13 BENEFITS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15 TO ALLOW A RETIREE THE OPTION TO RESUME
16 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE
17 STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE
18 BENEFIT PROGRAM.
19
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21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-5-411(a)(2)(C), concerning eligibility
25 of certain retired employees for state employees' health insurance benefits,
26 is amended to read as follows:

27 (C)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(2)(C)(ii) of
28 this section, an active retiree's failure to make an election during the
29 thirty-one-day election period or an active retiree's election to decline
30 participation in the health program is final.

31 (ii)(a) If an active retiree declining coverage
32 specifies in writing that the reason for the declination is because the
33 active retiree has coverage through another insurance program or group health
34 plan and the active retiree's coverage is subsequently terminated because of
35 a loss of eligibility, then the active retiree and any dependents shall
36 qualify for coverage in a health benefit program under this subsection upon



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1 payment of the appropriate premium as established by the board, provided the
2 active retiree applies for coverage within thirty-one (31) days of the loss
3 of eligibility.

4 (b) If an active retiree declining coverage
5 specifies in writing that the retiree declined coverage because the retiree
6 was covered through the spouse’s coverage under the health benefit program
7 under this subchapter, then the active retiree is qualified for coverage
8 under the health benefit program upon payment of the appropriate premium as
9 established by the board.

10 (c) Any subsequent termination of health
11 benefits by the retiree is final.

12
13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-5-411(a)(3)(C), concerning eligibility
14 of certain retired employees for state employees’ health insurance benefits,
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 (C)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (a)(3)(C)(ii) of
17 this section, an inactive retiree’s failure to make an election during the
18 thirty-one-day election period or an inactive retiree’s election to decline
19 participation in the health program is final.

20 (ii)(a) If an inactive retiree declining coverage
21 specifies in writing that the reason for the declination is because the
22 inactive retiree has coverage through another insurance program or group
23 health plan and the inactive retiree’s coverage is subsequently terminated
24 because of a loss of eligibility, then the inactive retiree and any
25 dependents shall qualify for coverage in a board-sponsored health benefit
26 program upon payment of the appropriate premium as established by the board,
27 provided the inactive retiree applies for coverage within thirty-one (31)
28 days of the loss of eligibility.

29 (b) If an inactive retiree declining coverage
30 specifies in writing that the retiree declined coverage because the retiree
31 was covered through the spouse’s coverage under the health benefit program
32 under this subchapter, then the inactive retiree is qualified for coverage
33 under the health benefit program upon payment of the appropriate premium as
34 established by the board.