

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 13 OF ACT 48 OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 1972 AS AMENDED [ARK. STATS. 12-3113] RELATING TO THE STATE EMPLOYEE'S GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Act 48 of the First Extraordinary Session of 1972 as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 12-3113, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 13. Eligible employees shall include all actively employed permanent employees of eligible participating agencies, boards, commissions, institutions, and constitutional offices; members of the General Assembly; elected constitutional officers; and appointed or elected board and commission members who are on a full time salaried basis, and those State contract employees hired by the Arkansas National Guard on a full time basis in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 2304(a)(10). Membership of the contract employees of the Arkansas National Guard is conditioned upon the federal government contributing the employer's share to the Insurance Section. Permanent employees are those whose employment is not seasonal or temporary, and whose actual performance of duty requires 1,000 or more working hours per year. State employees who are members of (1) the Public Employees Retirement System including legislative division and the contract personnel of the Arkansas National Guard; (2) the Teachers Retirement System; and (3) the State Highway Employees Retirement System; and (4) the State Judicial Retirement System who are now retired and drawing benefits under such systems and members of those systems who hereafter retire and receive retirement benefits under such systems shall be eligible to participate in the group health insurance program instituted pursuant to the provisions of this Act and other laws enacted to implement such program. Provided, however, that persons drawing retirement benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System, the State employees who are members of the Teachers Retirement System, the State Highway Employees Retirement System, and contract employees of the Arkansas National Guard who wish to participate in the group insurance program provided for herein shall pay the full amount of the premium or cost of the policy issued to such retired participant and such premium or cost be deducted from the retirement benefit check of such retired participants. Provided, however, that members of the Public Employees Retirement System and the State Highway Employees Retirement System who retire before January 2, 1988 under the provisions of the Incentives for Early Retirement Act shall not have to pay the full amount of the premium and shall pay a portion of the cost of the policy as set forth by the Incentives for Early Retirement Act of 1987. Provided further that eligible employees of institutions of higher education who are retired with at least 10 years of creditable service after the effective date of this Act shall be allowed to participate in the group insurance program provided for herein but shall pay the full amount of the premium or cost of the policy issued to such retired participant. All eligible participants must make an option selection of coverage within 31 days subsequent to the date of their notification of termination or retirement. Provided, further that any future change in coverage other than cancellation could be extended only to newly acquired dependents."

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are

hereby repealed.