

ARKANSAS SENATE
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 2561

"AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO CONTINUE COVERAGE IN THE GROUP
HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM."

Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 2561.

Amend House Bill No. 2561 as engrossed, S4/5/01:

Page 2, line 2, add "and, if qualified, to participate" between "coverage" and "in"

AND

Page 2, delete lines 4 through 11 and substitute the following:

"enacted to implement the program. ~~At the time members of those systems elect to receive retirement benefits, thereby becoming "active retirees", an election shall also be made to continue coverage in the health benefit programs sponsored by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board.~~ If members of these retirement systems receive retirement benefits, thereby becoming active retirees, the active retirees shall elect to enroll in a health benefit program sponsored by the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board. The election to enroll shall be made within thirty-one (31) days of the member becoming an active retiree and shall be made in writing to the executive director on forms prescribed by the board. To be eligible to continue coverage or to qualify for coverage after electing to decline participation, the member must have been covered or been eligible for coverage on the last day of the member's employment. Any election made to decline participation in the health benefit programs is final. Except as provided in the next sentence, an active retiree's failure to make an election during the thirty-one (31) day election period or an active retiree's election to decline participation in the health program is final. If an active retiree declining coverage, specifies in writing that the reason for the declination is because the active retiree has coverage through another insurance program or group health plan, and the active retiree's coverage is subsequently terminated because of a loss of eligibility, then the active retiree and any dependents shall qualify for coverage in a health benefit program under this subsection upon payment of the appropriate premium as established by the board, provided the active

retiree applies for coverage within thirty-one (31) days of the loss of eligibility. Any subsequent termination of health benefits by the retiree is final . "

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

**By: Senator J. Jeffress
DF/CDS - 040920011613
CDS525**

Secretary