

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

As Engrossed: H1/31/07 H2/1/07

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1228

5 By: Representative Hardwick
6 By: Senator J. Jeffress
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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PERMIT A RETIRED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE TO
11 CONTINUE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 TO PERMIT A RETIRED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE
15 TO CONTINUE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 1 is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 23-79-154. Continuation of health insurance for retired municipal
24 employees.

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1)(A) "Health care plan" means an individual, blanket, or group
27 plan, policy, or contract for health care services issued or delivered by a
28 health carrier in this state, including indemnity and managed care plans.

29 (B) "Health care plan" does not include a plan, policy, or
30 contract that provides coverage only for:

31 (i) A specified accident or accident-only coverage;

32 (ii) Long-term care insurance under the Long-Term
33 Care Insurance Act of 2005, § 23-97-301 et seq.;

34 (iii) A Medicare supplement policy of insurance;

35 (iv) Coverage under a plan through Medicare,
36 Medicaid, or the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program; or



(v) Coverage and supplemental coverage issued:

(a) Under Chapter 55 of Title 10 of the United States Code; or

(b) To provide liability insurance, coverage for workers' compensation claims, or similar insurance.

(b)(1) A municipality shall permit a retired municipal employee to continue coverage under the municipality's health care plan.

(2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section does not require a municipality to contribute funding to a retired municipal employee's health care coverage.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 24-12-129 is amended to read as follows:

24-12-129. Municipal officials and employees.

When any municipal official or municipal employee ~~age fifty-five (55) or over~~ who has completed twenty (20) years of service to the municipality and who is vested in the retirement system retires, the official or employee may continue to participate in the municipality's health care plan, receiving the same medical benefits and paying the same premium as active employees as long as the retired official or employee pays both employer and employee contributions to the health care plan.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 24-12-130 is amended to read as follows:

24-12-130. Limitation on benefits provided by Acts 1997, No. 1098.

Nothing contained in § 24-12-129 should be interpreted to prevent a municipality from providing benefits contained in § 24-12-129 to retirees ~~who are less than age fifty-five (55) or~~ who have completed fewer than twenty (20) years of municipal service. Further, any person who qualified and participated in a municipal health care plan under § 24-12-129 shall continue to be eligible to participate in the health care plan after August 1, 1997.

/s/ Hardwick