



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 668

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 6945

House of Representatives, May 8, 2001

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR PROBATE JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
4 prior to July 1, 2003, the Probate Court Administration Fund
5 established in accordance with section 45a-82, shall pay for each
6 probate judge and Probate Court employee not more than one
7 hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for [his] the
8 individual coverage of such judge or employee and not more than fifty
9 per cent of any additional cost for [his] the form of coverage of such
10 judge or employee. [The] Prior to July 1, 2003, the remainder of the
11 premium for such coverage shall be paid by the probate judge or
12 Probate Court employee to the State Treasurer. Payment shall be
13 credited by the State Treasurer to the fund established by section 45a-

14 82. The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Probate Court
15 Administrator directly to the insurance company or companies or
16 nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. On
17 and after July 1, 2003, such coverage shall be provided to such judges
18 and employees without cost. The Probate Court Administrator shall
19 establish regulations governing group hospitalization and medical and
20 surgical insurance in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (b)
21 of section 45a-77.

22 Sec. 2. Section 45a-56 of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

24 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5-259, the
25 Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and the
26 Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group
27 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance and dental
28 insurance plan for the probate judges and employees retirement
29 system with coverage equal to that available under section 5-259, or
30 otherwise available, to retired state employees and their spouses and
31 surviving spouses.

32 (b) Any member of the probate judges and employees retirement
33 system who is retired and receiving benefits from such system, and the
34 spouse of any such member, and upon the death of any such member,
35 such member's surviving spouse, while receiving benefits from such
36 system, may elect to participate in the group insurance plan procured
37 by the Comptroller under subsection (a) of this section.

38 (c) [The] Prior to July 1, 2003, the premium charged for any such
39 member and spouse or surviving spouse who elects to participate in
40 the group hospitalization and medical and surgical portion of such
41 coverage shall be paid from the retirement fund established pursuant
42 to section 45a-35. [Twenty] Prior to July 1, 2003, twenty per cent of the
43 premium charged for any such member and spouse or surviving
44 spouse who elects to participate in the group dental portion of such

45 coverage shall be paid from said retirement fund, and the remainder of
46 the premium for such coverage shall be paid by the participant. On
47 and after July 1, 2003, all such coverage shall be provided to such
48 member and spouse or surviving spouse without cost.

49 (d) Any such member and spouse or surviving spouse who is a
50 participant in the group insurance plan in effect prior to October 1,
51 1994, may elect to participate in the plan set forth in subsection (a) of
52 this section at the premiums set forth in subsection (c) of this section,
53 provided such election is made within sixty days of October 1, 1994.

JUD *Joint Favorable C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Future Costs

Affected Agencies: Probate Court (Judicial Department), State Comptroller

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

Passage of the bill would result in future costs. The bill proposes that health insurance costs (hospitalization, medical, surgical, and dental) for probate court judges, employees and retirees currently covered by the Probate Court Administration Fund (PCAF) be transferred to the General Fund, effective July 1, 2003. The PCAF now pays the premium for individual coverage and 50% for dependent coverage, except for dental coverage. In FY 2000, the PCAF expended approximately \$2.5 million for health care cost for active (310) and retired (180) employees.

It is anticipated that in 2003 the phase out of the succession tax will have its greatest impact thus far and consequently, this proposal represents an effort to keep the PCAF solvent. Under current law, the PCAF is permitted to cover the shortfalls in individual probate courts. The succession tax phase out is expected to prompt a greater need for such subsidies in the next few years.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6945

***AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE
PREMIUMS FOR PROBATE JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES.***

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 37 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 36 Nay 13