



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5139

January Session, 2003

**AN ACT CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS IN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAMS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-464 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) Any town, city or borough may, through its authorized officials,
4 provide such form or forms of group life, health and accident and
5 hospital plan benefits for its employees as it deems advisable. Any
6 town, city or borough that provides health and accident and hospital
7 plan benefits for its employees may arrange and procure the same
8 benefits for each active member of a volunteer fire company or
9 department within such town, city or borough, provided the member
10 (1) elects coverage under such plan or plans, and (2) pays one hundred
11 per cent of the premium charged and any additional costs for such
12 coverage.

13 (b) If the town, city or borough has less than twenty employees, no
14 health and accident and hospital plan for such employees may provide
15 for reduced coverage for any employee who has reached the age of
16 sixty-five and is eligible for Medicare benefits or any employee's
17 spouse who has reached age sixty-five and is eligible for Medicare
18 benefits except to the extent such coverage is provided by Medicare. If

19 the town, city or borough has twenty or more employees, the terms of
20 any such plan shall entitle any employee who has attained the age of
21 sixty-five and any employee's spouse who has attained the age of
22 sixty-five to group hospital, surgical or medical insurance coverage
23 under the same conditions as any covered employee or spouse who is
24 under the age of sixty-five.

25 Sec. 2. Subsection (i) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
26 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
27 *October 1, 2003*):

28 (i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of municipal
29 employees or employees of nonprofit corporations under the plan or
30 plans procured under subsection (a) of this section, provided: (1)
31 Participation by each municipal employer or nonprofit corporation
32 shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization
33 represents employees in a municipality or nonprofit corporation,
34 participation in a plan or plans to be procured under subsection (a) of
35 this section shall be by mutual agreement of the municipal employer
36 and the employee organization only and neither party may submit the
37 issue of participation to binding arbitration except by mutual
38 agreement; (3) no group of employees shall be refused entry into the
39 plan by reason of past or future health care costs or claim experience;
40 (4) rates paid by the state for its employees under subsection (a) of this
41 section are not adversely affected by this subsection; (5) administrative
42 costs to the plan or plans provided under this subsection shall be paid
43 by the participating municipality or nonprofit corporation at no
44 additional cost to the state; and (6) participation in the plan or plans in
45 an amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the
46 period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually
47 agreed by the municipality or nonprofit corporation and the
48 Comptroller. The Comptroller, with the approval of the Secretary of
49 the Office of Policy and Management, may arrange and procure for the
50 employees under this subsection health benefit plans that vary from
51 the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this section. Such
52 alternate plans may be offered to municipal employees on a fully

53 underwritten basis only. Notwithstanding any provision of law, such
54 alternate plan may be offered to employees of nonprofit corporations
55 on either a fully underwritten or risk-pooled basis at the discretion of
56 the Comptroller. For the purposes of this subsection, (A)
57 "municipality" means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing
58 district, fire district, district department of health, probate district,
59 housing authority, regional work force development board established
60 under section 31-3k, regional emergency telecommunications center,
61 tourism district established under section 32-302, flood commission or
62 authority established by special act, regional planning agency, transit
63 district formed under chapter 103a, or the Children's Center
64 established by number 571 of the public acts of 1969; and (B) "nonprofit
65 corporation" means a nonprofit corporation organized under 26 USC
66 501(c)(3) that has a contract with the state.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

LAB *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* PD
PD *Joint Favorable C/R* APP