



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5312

LCO No. 1131

01131_____LAB

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and
5 of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group
6 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for
7 (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect
8 coverage under such plan or plans, (3) [participants in an alternate
9 retirement program who meet the service requirements of section
10 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4)] anyone receiving benefits
11 under section 5-144 [or from any state-sponsored retirement system,
12 except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees
13 retirement system, (5)] and any member who is receiving benefits from
14 a state-sponsored retirement plan and who has satisfied the age and
15 service requirements to qualify for health benefits coverage as a retired
16 state employee under the collective bargaining agreement applicable to

17 the member, (4) judges of probate and Probate Court employees, [(6)]
18 (5) the surviving spouse, and any dependent children of a state police
19 officer, a member of an organized local police department, a firefighter
20 or a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties who dies
21 before, on or after June 26, 2003, as the result of injuries received while
22 acting within the scope of such officer's or firefighter's or constable's
23 employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and
24 whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise
25 eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance
26 plan. Coverage for a dependent child pursuant to this subdivision shall
27 terminate no earlier than the policy anniversary date on or after
28 whichever of the following occurs first, the date on which the child:
29 Becomes covered under a group health plan through the dependent's
30 own employment; or attains the age of twenty-six, [(7)] (6) employees
31 of the Capital City Economic Development Authority established by
32 section 32-601, and [(8)] (7) the surviving spouse and dependent
33 children of any employee of a municipality who dies on or after
34 October 1, 2000, as the result of injuries received while acting within
35 the scope of such employee's employment and not as the result of
36 illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent
37 children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and
38 medical and surgical insurance plan. For purposes of this subdivision,
39 "employee" means any regular employee or elective officer receiving
40 pay from a municipality, "municipality" means any town, city,
41 borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department
42 of health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force
43 development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission
44 or authority established by special act or regional planning agency. For
45 purposes of subdivision [(6)] (5) of this subsection, "firefighter" means
46 any person who is regularly employed and paid by any municipality
47 for the purpose of performing firefighting duties for a municipality on
48 average of not less than thirty-five hours per week. The minimum
49 benefits to be provided by such plan or plans shall be substantially
50 equal in value to the benefits that each such employee or member of

51 the General Assembly could secure in such plan or plans on an
52 individual basis on the preceding first day of July. The state shall pay
53 for each such employee and each member of the General Assembly
54 covered by such plan or plans the portion of the premium charged for
55 such member's or employee's individual coverage and seventy per
56 cent of the additional cost of the form of coverage and such amount
57 shall be credited to the total premiums owed by such employee or
58 member of the General Assembly for the form of such member's or
59 employee's coverage under such plan or plans. On and after January 1,
60 1989, the state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits from any such
61 state-sponsored retirement system one hundred per cent of the portion
62 of the premium charged for such member's or employee's individual
63 coverage and one hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form
64 of coverage. The balance of any premiums payable by an individual
65 employee or by a member of the General Assembly for the form of
66 coverage shall be deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller.
67 The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to
68 the insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or
69 organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's
70 contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization
71 option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest
72 amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option
73 that is available to all eligible state employees included in the health
74 benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed the amount of the
75 health maintenance organization premium.

76 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 5-259 of the 2012 supplement to the
77 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
78 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

79 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
80 the state shall pay for [a member of any such state-sponsored
81 retirement system, or a participant in an alternate retirement program
82 who meets the service requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a)
83 of section 5-166, and who begins receiving benefits from such system

84 or program on or after November 1, 1989, eighty per cent of the
 85 portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and eighty
 86 per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage] any retired
 87 member who begins receiving retirement benefits from a state-
 88 sponsored retirement plan on or after November 1, 1989, and has
 89 satisfied the age and service requirement to qualify for health benefit
 90 coverage under the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the
 91 retired member, the portion of the premium charged for individual
 92 coverage and any additional costs for the retired member's form of
 93 coverage established by such agreement. Upon the death of any such
 94 member, any surviving spouse of such member who begins receiving
 95 benefits from such system shall be eligible for [coverage under this
 96 section and the state shall pay for any such spouse eighty per cent of
 97 the portion of the premium charged for his individual coverage and
 98 eighty per cent of any additional cost for his form of coverage]
 99 continued health benefit coverage, and the state shall pay the portion
 100 of the premium for individual coverage and any additional costs for
 101 the surviving spouse's form of coverage established by the collective
 102 bargaining agreement applicable to the member.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	5-259(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	5-259(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To make changes in the state employee health benefit statutes to correspond with employee concessions in the state employee collective bargaining agreement.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]