



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 498

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5488

House of Representatives, April 10, 2014

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. FOX, G. of the 146th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBATE COURT PERSONNEL.

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 2014 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

4 (g) (1) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
5 section, [the] prior to July 1, 2015: (i) The Probate Court Administration
6 Fund established [in accordance with] under section 45a-82 [,] shall
7 pay for each probate judge and each probate court employee not more
8 than one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged for
9 the judge's or employee's individual coverage and not more than fifty
10 per cent of any additional cost for the judge's or employee's form of
11 coverage, [The] and (ii) the remainder of the premium for such
12 coverage shall be paid by the probate judge or probate court employee,
13 [to the State Treasurer. Payment shall be credited by the State
14 Treasurer to the fund established by section 45a-82.]

15 (B) On and after July 1, 2015: (i) The Probate Court Administration
 16 Fund established under section 45a-82 shall pay for each probate judge
 17 and each probate court employee the same portion of the premium
 18 charged for the judge's or employee's individual coverage, and the
 19 same portion of any additional cost for the judge's or employee's form
 20 of coverage, as is paid by the Comptroller for insurance coverage
 21 procured under subsection (a) of this section for active state
 22 employees, and (ii) the remainder of the premium for such coverage
 23 shall be paid by the probate judge or probate court employee.

24 (C) The total premiums payable shall be remitted by the Probate
 25 Court Administrator directly to the insurance company or companies
 26 or nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage.

27 (2) The Probate Court Administrator shall issue regulations
 28 governing group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance
 29 procured for probate judges and probate court employees. Such
 30 regulations shall be issued pursuant to [subsection (b) of] section 45a-
 31 77.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	5-259(g)

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Probate Court	PCAF - Cost	484,704	528,327

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of \$484,704 in FY 15 and \$528,327 in FY 16 to the Probate Court Administration Fund for increasing the portion the fund pays towards premiums for probate court employees. There are currently approximately 300 active participants enrolled in insurance coverage paid by the Probate Court Administrative Fund with dependent coverage.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5488*****AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBATE COURT PERSONNEL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill, starting July 1, 2015, makes the portion of the group health insurance premium the Probate Court Administration Fund (PCAF) pays for probate court judges and employees equal to the portion the comptroller pays for active state employees.

Under current law, the PCAF must pay (1) 100% of the premium cost for each probate court judge and employee who elects individual coverage and (2) if the judge or employee elects coverage for a dependent, spouse, or family, 50% of the additional premium cost. The comptroller, by law, also pays 100% of the individual coverage for active state employees, but he pays 70%, rather than 50%, of any additional premium costs (CGS § 5-259(a)).

The bill also eliminates requirements that (1) a probate court judge or employee pay his or her portion of the additional premium to the state treasurer and (2) the state treasurer credit the payments to PCAF. (Presumably, the balance of any premium due from a probate judge or employee will be deducted from the payroll by the probate court administrator.)

As under current law, the probate court administrator must send the total premium directly to the insurance company or nonprofit organization that provides the coverage.

The bill also makes a minor technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 1 (03/24/2014)