

House Bill 1121

By: Representatives Ashe of the 46th, Reece of the 11th, Bell of the 25th and Skipper of the 137th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-55 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to per
2 diem and expenses of members of local boards of education, and Code Section 45-18-5,
3 relating to coverage of county officers and employees under the state employees' health
4 insurance plan, so as to clarify that members of local boards of education may decline
5 insurance coverage offered to them by such local boards of education; to provide expressly
6 that members of local boards of education who are eligible for state employees' insurance,
7 schoolteachers' insurance, or school employees' insurance by reason of some status other
8 than membership on a local board of education may choose such coverage in lieu of coverage
9 as a member of a local board of education; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
10 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

13 Code Section 20-2-55 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to per diem and
14 expenses of members of local boards of education, is amended by striking subsection (b) and
15 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 "(b) (1) A local board of education is authorized to provide group medical and dental
17 insurance for its members who elect to participate. Such insurance may be provided
18 through a group policy secured by the local school district, a group policy secured by
19 several local school districts, a policy secured by an organization of local school boards,
20 or in accordance with Code Section 45-18-5 providing for the inclusion of electing
21 members of the local board of education and their the spouses and dependents of such
22 electing members within any health insurance plan or plans established under Article 1
23 of Chapter 18 of Title 45. It shall be the duty of the board to make the employer
24 contributions required for the operation of such plan or plans. A board providing such

1 insurance shall pay no greater percentage of the cost of that insurance than the percentage
 2 of the cost paid as an employer contribution by the state for the health insurance plan for
 3 state employees pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45. The remainder of such
 4 insurance costs, and all the costs of any coverage for family members, shall be paid as an
 5 employee contribution by the board member. It shall be the duty of the board to deduct
 6 from the salary or other remuneration of qualified electing members or otherwise collect
 7 such payment from the qualified electing members or dependents.

8 (2) Taxes levied by or on behalf of a local board of education may be expended for
 9 employer contributions, but not employee contributions, required for insurance coverage
 10 of electing members of that board as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection. Such
 11 expenditures on behalf of any electing member may continue only as long as that electing
 12 member continues in office and makes any employee contribution required for such
 13 coverage. That electing member, and eligible dependents thereof, shall be ineligible for
 14 coverage pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection upon such
 15 person's ceasing to serve as a member of a local board of education. Such expenditure
 16 for the employer contribution shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any salary,
 17 expense, per diem, or other compensation payable to that member of a local board of
 18 education.

19 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member of a local board of education
 20 who is eligible for group medical and dental insurance within any health insurance plan
 21 or plans established under Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 or this chapter, which
 22 eligibility is based upon employment or retirement status other than membership on a
 23 local board of education, shall be able to choose coverage based upon such employment
 24 or retirement status in lieu of coverage as a member of a local board of education."

25 SECTION 2.

26 Code Section 45-18-5, relating to coverage of county officers and employees under the state
 27 employees' health insurance plan, is amended by striking subsection (c.1) and inserting in
 28 lieu thereof the following:

29 "(c.1) Any local board of education may elect for members thereof who elect to participate
 30 and their the spouses and dependents of such electing members to be included in any health
 31 plan or plans established under Code Section 20-2-918. It shall be the duty of any local
 32 boards of education so electing to deduct from the salary or other compensation of its
 33 electing members such payment as may be required under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)
 34 of Code Section 20-2-55 and to remit the same to the health insurance fund created under
 35 Code Section 20-2-918."

1 **SECTION 3.**

2 This Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following the month in which
3 it is approved by the Governor or in which it becomes law without such approval.

4 **SECTION 4.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.