

House Bill 1121 (FLOOR SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representative Ashe of the 46th

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 of
3 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to coverage of county officers and
4 employees under the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to authorize local boards
5 of education to pay additional costs imposed on certain members of the local board as a result
6 of such board's decision to provide certain state health insurance benefits to members of the
7 local board; to provide for the use of tax funds for such purpose; to provide for related
8 matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

14 "(b)(1) A local board of education is authorized to provide group medical and dental
15 insurance for its members who elect to participate. Such insurance may be provided
16 through a group policy secured by the local school district, a group policy secured by
17 several local school districts, a policy secured by an organization of local school boards,
18 or in accordance with Code Section 45-18-5 providing for the inclusion of members of
19 the local board of education and their spouses and dependents within any health insurance
20 plan or plans established under Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45. It shall be the duty of
21 the board to make the employer contributions required for the operation of such plan or
22 plans. ~~A board~~ Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a board providing
23 such insurance shall pay no greater percentage of the cost of that insurance than the
24 percentage of the cost paid as an employer contribution by the state for the health
25 insurance plan for state employees pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45. The
26 remainder of such insurance costs, and all the costs of any coverage for family members,

H. B. 1121 (SUB)

1 shall be paid as an employee contribution by the board member. It shall be the duty of the
2 board to deduct from the salary or other remuneration of qualified members or otherwise
3 collect such payment from the qualified members or dependents.

4 (2) Taxes levied by or on behalf of a local board of education may be expended for
5 employer contributions, but not employee contributions, required for insurance coverage
6 of members of that board as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection. Taxes levied
7 by or on behalf of a local board of education also may be expended for contributions
8 authorized in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Such expenditures on behalf of any
9 member may continue only as long as that member continues in office and makes any
10 employee contribution required for such coverage. That member, and eligible dependents
11 thereof, shall be ineligible for coverage pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
12 subsection upon such person's ceasing to serve as a member of a local board of
13 education. Such expenditures on behalf of any member in accordance with paragraph (3)
14 of this subsection may continue only as long as that member continues in office and
15 makes any contribution which is not the result of the board of education's decision to
16 allow its members to participate in the health insurance plan. ~~Such expenditure for the~~
17 ~~employer contribution~~ Expenditures authorized by this Code section shall be in addition
18 to, and not in lieu of, any salary, expense, per diem, or other compensation payable to that
19 member of a local board of education.

20 (3) If a board member is already a member of a health insurance plan established by
21 Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 as a retired employee and the result of the board of
22 education's decision to allow its members to participate is to establish dual eligibility for
23 a member and thus to increase the cost to such member of the state insurance plan, then
24 the local board may pay any additional cost imposed on such member as a result of the
25 local board's decision to allow its members to participate in coverage under paragraph
26 (1) of this subsection."

27 SECTION 2.

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

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

