

House Bill 491

By: Representatives Smith of the 102nd, Cummings of the 27th, Lord of the 121st, Harbin of the 113th, Golick of the 30th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To make continuing health insurance coverage more accessible; to amend Chapter 2 of Title
2 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary
3 education, so as to reduce the years of creditable service required for teachers and other
4 employees of public schools to be offered continuing health insurance coverage; to amend
5 Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the State
6 Employees' Health Insurance Plan, to permit monthly premium payments for continuing
7 health insurance coverage; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
12 secondary education, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 20-2-888, relating
13 to coverage for certain surviving spouses and teachers not entitled to retirement benefits, and
14 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

15 "20-2-888.

16 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart to the contrary, the board shall offer
17 coverage to the surviving spouse of any teacher who died prior to January 1, 1979, and to
18 any teacher with ~~20~~ eight or more years of creditable service who is not presently eligible
19 to receive retirement benefits. The surviving spouse or teacher shall pay in monthly
20 installments both the employer and employee premiums for such insurance coverage. The
21 amount of the monthly premiums shall be equal to the rate of employer and employee
22 contributions in effect during the existence of the coverage."

1 of premium to be sent to such person by the board. If ~~the annual~~ such premium is not paid
2 within such time limit, such insurance coverage shall be canceled and such person shall not
3 again be eligible to participate in such plan. This Code section shall not affect the rights
4 otherwise available under this article to retired employees and their spouses and
5 dependents. The board is authorized to establish terms and conditions for participation
6 which the board shall deem appropriate and which are not in conflict with this Code
7 section."

8 **SECTION 4.**

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