

House Bill 524

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26th, Brown of the 69th, Harbin of the 118th, Jones of the 46th, and Reece of the 27th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 6 of Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to health insurance plans, so as to provide that the commissioner of
3 community health may combine the health insurance funds for public school teachers and
4 public school employees with other health insurance funds for public employees; to provide
5 for the payment of health insurance premiums by certain retired employees; to provide for
6 the method of determining the employer contribution to the fund; to provide for suspension
7 of benefits if the employer contribution is not paid in full; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 18
8 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the health insurance fund
9 for public employees, so as to provide that the commissioner of community health may
10 combine the health insurance fund for public employees with other health insurance funds
11 for public employees; to provide for the payment of health insurance premiums by certain
12 retired employees; to provide for the method of determining the employer contribution to the
13 fund; to provide for suspension of benefits if the employer contribution is not paid in full; to
14 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

17 Part 6 of Article 17 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
18 relating to health insurance plans, is amended by adding a new subsection (c) to Code
19 Section 20-2-891, relating to health insurance fund for public school teachers, to read as
20 follows:

21 "(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commissioner may combine
22 the fund provided for in this Code section with the funds provided for in Code Section
23 20-2-918 and Code Section 45-18-12."

1 relating to creation of health insurance fund, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section
2 45-18-12 to read as follows:

3 "45-18-12.

4 (a) There is created a health insurance fund which shall be available without fiscal year
5 limitations for premium, subscription charge, benefits, and administration costs. The
6 amounts withheld from employees and retired employees under this article, all amounts
7 contributed by the state or from federal funds to such health insurance fund, and all
8 amounts contributed by any state authority pursuant to this article shall be credited to such
9 health insurance fund. All other income, as well as the income derived from any dividends,
10 premium rate adjustments, or other refunds under any contract or contracts, shall be
11 credited to and constitute a part of such fund. Any amounts remaining in such fund after
12 all premiums or subscription charges and other expenses have been paid shall be retained
13 in such fund as a special reserve for adverse fluctuation. The commissioner of community
14 health shall be executive officer of the Board of Community Health for the administration
15 of this article and custodian of such health insurance fund and shall be responsible under
16 a properly approved bond for all moneys coming into said fund and paid out of said fund
17 as may be required to be paid to any contracting corporation under any contract entered
18 into pursuant to this article and to cover administrative costs.

19 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commissioner may combine
20 the fund provided for in this Code section with the funds provided for in Code Section
21 20-2-891 and Code Section 20-2-918."

22 **SECTION 7.**

23 Said article is further amended by striking Code Section 45-18-14, relating to deductions
24 from compensation and benefit payments of share of cost of coverage under plan of
25 employees, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 45-18-14 to read as follows:

26 "45-18-14.

27 (a) During any period in which an employee is covered under this article prior to the date
28 of his retirement, there shall be withheld from each salary payment or other compensation
29 of such employee, as his share of the cost of coverage under this plan, such portion of the
30 premium or subscription charges under the terms of any contract or contracts issued in
31 accordance with this article as may be established by the board. During any month in
32 which benefits are being paid by the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia to an
33 individual so covered under this program, contributions in the amounts prescribed by the
34 board shall be deducted from such payments with the consent of the recipient. The various
35 departments, boards, and agencies of the state government shall contribute to the health
36 insurance fund such portions of the cost of such benefits as may be established by the board

1 and the Governor as funds become available in each department, board, and agency, based
 2 ~~on a percentage of the total outlay for personal services~~ in addition to an amount to be
 3 established by the board to defray the cost of administration and the state's portion of the
 4 cost of benefits payable for annuitants. The legislative fiscal officer shall contribute to the
 5 health insurance fund as an employer payment for and on behalf of all members of the
 6 General Assembly and its administrative and clerical personnel. The Department of
 7 Administrative Services shall contribute to the fund as an employer payment for and on
 8 behalf of district attorneys, assistant district attorneys appointed pursuant to Code Section
 9 15-18-14, and secretaries and law clerks of the superior courts of the state and secretaries
 10 employed by district attorneys. The amount of such contributions shall be such portions
 11 of the costs of such benefits as may be established by the board ~~as a percent of the total~~
 12 ~~outlay of services rendered by members of the General Assembly, its administrative and~~
 13 ~~clerical personnel, and the district attorneys of the superior courts of the state;~~ and, in
 14 addition thereto, an amount to be established by the board shall be contributed to defray the
 15 costs of administration. The board shall determine whether such employer portion shall
 16 be determined based upon a percentage of the total outlay for personal services or
 17 determined on an amount per employee electing coverage under the plan based on the
 18 coverage elected, in accordance with the appropriation of funds.

19 (b) If an employee has been eligible for coverage under the state health insurance plan for
 20 a period of ten years and is discharged from employment and the discharge is under appeal
 21 to the State Personnel Board, such employee shall be entitled to continue coverage by
 22 paying the employee contribution under the health insurance plan until the State Personnel
 23 Board has rendered a decision or for a period of six months, whichever is less."

24 SECTION 8.

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