

House Bill 989

By: Representatives Powell of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Kidd of the 141<sup>st</sup>, and Bearden of the 68<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to authorize the board  
3 to contract with various municipalities of this state for the inclusion of the employees within  
4 any health plans established under that part; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, is amended by adding a new Code  
10 section to read as follows:

11 "45-18-5.3.

12 (a) The board is authorized to contract with the various municipalities of this state for the  
13 inclusion of the employees of any municipality within any health insurance plan or plans  
14 established under this part. The various municipalities of this state are authorized to  
15 contract with the board as provided in this Code section. The board is authorized to adopt  
16 regulations for entering into any contract. In the event that any such contract is entered  
17 into, it shall be the duty of any municipality so contracting to remit any funds that may be  
18 deducted from the earnings or other compensation of its employees for their inclusion in  
19 the health insurance plan. In addition, it shall be the duty of any municipality so  
20 contracting to make the employer contributions required for the operation of such plan or  
21 plans.

22 (b) Municipal officials may elect to be included in a health insurance plan, health  
23 maintenance organization, or other health benefits plan offered or provided by a  
24 municipality for its municipal officers or any health plan or plans established under this  
25 part. The governing authority of the municipality may elect by majority vote to provide  
26 for payment in a uniform manner of any portion, all, or none of the employer contributions

27 for or required premiums or payment due from the municipal officials who under this Code  
28 section are eligible for inclusion in the health plans or plans established under this part. To  
29 the extent employer contributions are not fully made by a municipality, it shall be the duty  
30 of the covered officials to make such employer contributions required on their behalf for  
31 the operation of such plan or plans.

32 (c) In administering this Code section, it shall be the responsibility of the board to develop  
33 rates for coverage based upon actual claims experience of the individuals covered by this  
34 Code section. The board shall require a bond to assure the contractual performance of any  
35 entities with which it contracts under this Code section.

36 (d) Nothing in this Code section shall preclude the exercise of any options or rights  
37 otherwise available to such municipal employees under other state or federal laws which  
38 relate to extension or continuation of health benefits."

39

**SECTION 2.**

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