

The House Committee on Retirement offers the following substitute to HB 969:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the Georgia State Employees Post-employment Health Benefit Fund,  
3 so as to provide for certain fund beneficiaries to not be disqualified from the provision of  
4 postretirement health benefits under the Georgia State Employees Post-employment Health  
5 Benefit Fund because of service as an elected member of a local board of education; to  
6 provide for definitions; to provide for options for certain retirees serving as elected members  
7 of local boards of education; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date;  
8 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to the Georgia State Employees Post-employment Health Benefit Fund, is amended  
13 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "45-18-29.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

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16 (1) 'Post-employment health plan' means the state employees' health insurance plan  
17 established under Part 1 of this article available as a post-employment healthcare benefit  
18 for retirees.

19 (2) 'Retiree' means a former state employee, former teacher, or former public school  
20 employee who met the eligibility criteria when an active employee or was included by  
21 specific legislation and who receives a monthly benefit from a state retirement system.

22 (3) 'State retirement system' means the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia,  
23 Georgia Legislative Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, Public  
24 School Employees Retirement System, Georgia Judicial Retirement System, or other  
25 local retirement system approved to participate in the post-employment health plan.

26 (b) A retiree who would otherwise qualify as a fund beneficiary shall not be disqualified  
27 from participating in the post-employment health plan solely because of service as an  
28 elected member of a local board of education. A retiree who is currently serving as or  
29 becomes an elected member of a local board of education may choose to have the premium  
30 for coverage under the state health benefit plan withheld from his or her retirement benefit  
31 and submitted on his or her behalf to the Department of Community Health."

32 **SECTION 2.**

33 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
34 without such approval.

35 **SECTION 3.**

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