

House Bill 868

By: Representatives Lumsden of the 12th, Scoggins of the 14th, Kelley of the 16th, Gunter of the 8th, Taylor of the 173rd, and others

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 state employees' health insurance plan, so as to provide for certain
3 retiring county officers and the spouses and dependents of such officers to be included in
4 certain county health plans; to provide for definitions; to provide for the payment of
5 premiums; to provide for a formula to ensure savings are preserved; to provide for
6 contracting with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia; to provide for
7 reasonable fees; to provide for termination and reinstatement; to provide for related matters;
8 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to state employees' health insurance plan, is amended in Code Section 45-18-5,
13 relating to county officers and employees, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

14 “(b.1)(1) As used in this subsection, the term:

15 (A) 'County health plan' means a health insurance plan, health maintenance
16 organization, or other health benefits plan offered or provided by a county for its county
17 officers and the spouses and dependents of such officers.

18 (B) 'Eligible county officer' means an individual who is at least the age of 55 and no
19 more than the age of 65, is retiring from a position as a county officer, and has served
20 at least 16 years in one or more of the following capacities: probate judge, sheriff, tax
21 commissioner or tax collector, or clerk of the superior court.

22 (2) On and after December 31, 2026, any eligible county officer may elect for himself
23 or herself and the spouse and dependents of such officer to be included in a county health
24 plan. The county governing authority of such officer shall pay 75 percent of any
25 premiums for such plan for such officer and the spouse and dependents of such officer
26 until such officer reaches the age of 65; provided, however, that such premium payment
27 shall not exceed the savings realized by such county based on the total gross salary paid
28 to such officer in his or her final 12 months of service minus the total gross salary due to
29 an individual serving as a new county officer for that position in his or her first 12 months
30 of service, using salaries provided for in Code Sections 15-6-88 through 15-6-91, 15-9-63
31 through 15-9-66, 15-16-20, 36-5-25, and 48-5-183. A county governing authority may
32 elect by majority vote to pay such premium payments in a uniform manner through the
33 Association County Commissioners of Georgia and is authorized to contract with the
34 Association County Commissioners of Georgia as provided in this subsection. In the
35 event that such a contract is entered into, it shall be the duty of the Association County
36 Commissioners of Georgia to collect and remit such payments as may be required for
37 such officer and the spouse and dependents of such officer to be included in such plan.
38 The Association County Commissioners of Georgia may add a reasonable fee to the
39 premiums required under such plan to cover necessary administrative costs. In addition,
40 it shall be the duty of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia to maintain and
41 remit accurate records and other information as required to administer such plan pursuant

42 to this subsection. Failure of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia to remit
43 such payments may, upon written notice to the Association County Commissioners of
44 Georgia and such officer, terminate the coverage for such officer and the spouse and
45 dependents of such officer as of the day following the last day for which such payment
46 was remitted. Coverage may be reinstated upon the tender of such payment not
47 previously remitted."

48 **SECTION 2.**

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