

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0065

State employees' group insurance-county employees.

Sponsored by: Joint Appropriations Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to administration of government; providing
2 counties an option to participate in the state employees'
3 and officials' group insurance plan; specifying
4 participation and contribution requirements and procedures;
5 implementing payment mechanisms for participating counties;
6 and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-3-201(a), (e) and (f),
11 9-3-203(a)(iv), (xvi), by creating a new paragraph (xvii)
12 and by renumbering (xvii) as (xviii), 9-3-210 by creating a
13 new subsection (g) and 18-2-101(a)(vi), (viii) and by
14 creating a new paragraph (ix) are amended to read:

15

1 **9-3-201. Group prepaid plans authorized; agreements**
2 **with insurance companies authorized; limitation on**
3 **authorized plans and companies; payroll deductions; self-**
4 **insurance programs; optional school district and county**
5 **participation in plan.**

6
7 (a) The state of Wyoming and its political
8 subdivisions and school districts may obtain group prepaid
9 plans or insurance for life, health, accident or
10 hospitalization for their employees and for elected
11 officials, except for members of the legislature, and enter
12 into agreements with prepaid plans or insurance companies
13 to provide this coverage. Insurance coverage for school
14 district, county or board of cooperative educational
15 services employees meeting the definition of employee under
16 W.S. 9-3-203(a)(iv), shall, if elected by the district,
17 county or board under subsection (e) of this section, be
18 provided through the state employees' and officials' group
19 insurance plan in accordance with W.S. 9-3-202 through
20 9-3-218. Insurance coverage for retired school district,
21 county or board of cooperative educational services
22 employees shall, if elected by the board, county or
23 district under subsection (e) of this section and if the

1 retired employee was continuously covered under the
2 board's, county's or district's insurance plan prior to the
3 election, be provided through the state employees' and
4 officials' group insurance plan in accordance with W.S.
5 9-3-202 through 9-3-218. If a school district, county or
6 board of cooperative educational services elects to cease
7 participation in the group insurance plan pursuant to
8 subsection (f) of this section, the election shall apply to
9 retired employees of that board, county or district who are
10 receiving coverage under this subsection.

11

12 (e) Any school district, county or board of
13 cooperative educational services may elect to participate
14 in the state employees' and officials' group insurance plan
15 by filing notification of election with the department of
16 administration and information on a form and in a manner as
17 prescribed by the department. Participation in the plan
18 for any electing board, county or district shall commence
19 not less than one hundred twenty (120) days following the
20 date on which the board, county or district filed
21 notification under this subsection and shall be identical
22 to plans and coverage provided other enrollees under this
23 act. The department shall notify the electing board,

1 county or district of the date on which the board, county
2 or district is eligible to participate in the state group
3 insurance plan. An election by a board, county or district
4 to participate in the state group insurance plan under this
5 subsection is irrevocable for a period of five (5) years
6 from the date on which plan participation originally
7 commenced. In addition to all other remedies available to
8 the department, if a district, county or board withdraws
9 from the state group insurance plan during the period of
10 irrevocability, the department may assess against the
11 withdrawing board, county or district the amount by which
12 all claims paid on behalf of employees of the board, county
13 or district exceeds total premiums paid by the board,
14 county or district and their employees. A board, county or
15 district may renew its initial participation in the state
16 group insurance plan without interruption upon submitting
17 notification of renewal to the department prior to
18 expiration of the initial five (5) year participation
19 period. Renewal of plan participation shall be irrevocable
20 for an additional period of not less than five (5) years.

21

22 (f) Any school district, county or board of
23 cooperative educational services which has elected to

1 participate in the state employees' and officials' group
2 insurance plan under subsection (e) of this section may,
3 upon expiration of the initial five (5) years of plan
4 participation required under subsection (e) of this
5 section, elect to cease participation in the state group
6 insurance plan by filing notification of the election to
7 the department on a form and in a manner prescribed by the
8 department. An election under this subsection shall
9 prohibit the board, county or district from participation
10 in the state group insurance plan for a period of five (5)
11 years commencing on the date plan participation ceased.
12 Participation in the plan for any board, county or district
13 electing to cease plan participation under this subsection
14 shall be discontinued on a date determined by the
15 department in consultation with the board, county or
16 district, but in no event later than one hundred twenty
17 (120) days following the date on which the board, county or
18 district filed notification under this subsection.

19

20 **9-3-203. Definitions.**

21

22 (a) As used in this act:

23

1 (iv) "Employee" means any employee of a
2 participating school district, participating county or
3 participating board of cooperative educational services
4 whose salary is paid by funds of the district, county or
5 board, or any official or employee of the state of Wyoming
6 whose salary is paid by state funds, including employees
7 and faculty members of the University of Wyoming and
8 various community colleges in the state, except persons
9 employed on intermittent, irregular, or less than halftime
10 basis and any at-will contract employee who does not meet
11 the requirements established under W.S.
12 9-2-1022(a)(xi)(F)(III) or (IV). "Employee" shall not
13 include employees of the agricultural extension service of
14 the University of Wyoming who hold federal civil service
15 appointments, are required to participate in federal civil
16 service retirement and who elect to participate in the
17 federal employees' health benefit program as authorized in
18 W.S. 9-3-210(d);

19

20 (xvi) "Voluntary participating employer"
21 includes a participating board of cooperative educational
22 services, participating county and participating school
23 district;

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

(xvii) "Participating county" means a county which has elected to participate in the state employees' and officials' group insurance plan under W.S. 9-3-201(e) and which has not discontinued plan participation pursuant to an election under W.S. 9-3-201(f);

~~(xvii)~~ (xviii) "This act" means W.S. 9-3-202 through 9-3-218.

9-3-210. Amount of state's contribution; estimates submitted to state budget officer; specified employees participation in federal program; participating employers and county contributions.

(g) A participating county shall pay to the department the monthly premium established by the department for coverage of each eligible employee or official of the county electing to become covered by any portion of the group insurance plan. Additionally, each participating county shall pay to the department a monthly amount equal to the lowest premium for nonsupplemental coverage for each eligible employee or official of the

1 county not electing to become covered under the
2 nonsupplemental portion of the group insurance plan. For
3 purposes of this subsection an employee shall not be
4 considered as not electing coverage if that employee is
5 covered by other insurance with benefits comparable to or
6 greater than the coverage provided by the least expensive
7 nonsupplemental plan available under this act. Monthly
8 premiums shall be at minimum no less than rates assessed
9 for coverage of other enrollees qualified under W.S.
10 9-3-203(a)(iv), and shall be based upon information
11 reported by the participating county to the department, to
12 be in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

13
14 **18-2-101. General powers.**

15
16 (a) Each organized county in the state is a body
17 corporate and politic. The powers of the county shall be
18 exercised by a board of county commissioners which may:

19
20 (vi) Establish a surface water drainage system,
21 utilities and drainage management; ~~and~~

1 (viii) Declare and abate nuisances which the
2 commission determines to be a threat to health or safety as
3 provided in W.S. 18-2-115. No person shall create, continue
4 or permit nuisances to exist in violation of a final order
5 issued pursuant to W.S. 18-2-115. Any resolution passed by
6 a board of county commissioners pursuant to this paragraph
7 is enforceable, in addition to other remedies provided by
8 law, by injunction, mandamus or abatement. Whoever fails to
9 comply with a final order shall be assessed a civil penalty
10 of up to one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day for each day
11 the violation continues. No resolution issued pursuant to
12 this paragraph shall regulate any permitted industrial
13 facility or oil and gas or mining operations necessary to
14 the extraction, production or exploration of the mineral
15 resources. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
16 impair or modify any rights afforded to farm or ranch
17 operations pursuant to the Wyoming Right to Farm and Ranch
18 Act; and

19
20 (ix) Provide insurance under the state
21 employees' and officials' group insurance plan pursuant to
22 W.S. 9-3-201(e), for county employees meeting the
23 definition of employee under W.S. 9-3-203(a)(iv), as

1 provided by W.S. 9-3-202 through 9-3-218. Each
2 participating county shall report to the department of
3 administration and information as specified by W.S.
4 9-3-201(e) and make payments for employer and employee
5 contributions as provided by W.S. 9-3-210 and 9-3-211. The
6 amount of contributions paid under W.S. 9-3-211 for each
7 employee electing coverage shall be deducted from the
8 employee's monthly salary in accordance with W.S. 9-3-211.
9 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the
10 county's authority to provide insurance for its employees
11 as otherwise provided by law.

12

13 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2015.

14

15

(END)