

1 AN ACT concerning health benefits.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The State Employees Group Insurance Act of  
5 1971 is amended by changing Section 8 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 375/8) (from Ch. 127, par. 528)

7 Sec. 8. Eligibility.

8 (a) Each member eligible under the provisions of this  
9 Act and any rules and regulations promulgated and adopted  
10 hereunder by the Director shall become immediately eligible  
11 and covered for all benefits available under the programs.  
12 Members electing coverage for eligible dependents shall have  
13 the coverage effective immediately, provided that the  
14 election is properly filed in accordance with required filing  
15 dates and procedures specified by the Director.

16 (1) Every member originally eligible to elect  
17 dependent coverage, but not electing it during the  
18 original eligibility period, may subsequently obtain  
19 dependent coverage only in the event of a qualifying  
20 change in status, special enrollment, special  
21 circumstance as defined by the Director, or during the  
22 annual Benefit Choice Period.

23 (2) Members described above being transferred from  
24 previous coverage towards which the State has been  
25 contributing shall be transferred regardless of  
26 preexisting conditions, waiting periods, or other  
27 requirements that might jeopardize claim payments to  
28 which they would otherwise have been entitled.

29 (3) Eligible and covered members that are eligible  
30 for coverage as dependents except for the fact of being  
31 members shall be transferred to, and covered under,

1 dependent status regardless of preexisting conditions,  
2 waiting periods, or other requirements that might  
3 jeopardize claim payments to which they would otherwise  
4 have been entitled upon cessation of member status and  
5 the election of dependent coverage by a member eligible  
6 to elect that coverage.

7 (b) New employees shall be immediately insured for the  
8 basic group life insurance and covered by the program of  
9 health benefits on the first day of active State service.  
10 Optional coverages or benefits, if elected during the  
11 relevant eligibility period, will become effective on the  
12 date of employment. Optional coverages or benefits applied  
13 for after the eligibility period will be effective, subject  
14 to satisfactory evidence of insurability when applicable, or  
15 other necessary qualifications, pursuant to the requirements  
16 of the applicable benefit program, unless there is a change  
17 in status that would confer new eligibility for change of  
18 enrollment under rules established supplementing this Act, in  
19 which event application must be made within the new  
20 eligibility period.

21 (c) As to the group health benefits program contracted  
22 to begin or continue after June 30, 1973, each retired  
23 employee shall become immediately eligible and covered for  
24 all benefits available under that program. Retired employees  
25 may elect coverage for eligible dependents and shall have the  
26 coverage effective immediately, provided that the election is  
27 properly filed in accordance with required filing dates and  
28 procedures specified by the Director.

29 Where husband and wife are both eligible members, each  
30 shall be enrolled as a member and coverage on their eligible  
31 dependent children, if any, may be under the enrollment and  
32 election of either.

33 Regardless of other provisions herein regarding late  
34 enrollment or other qualifications, as appropriate, the

1 Director may periodically authorize open enrollment periods  
2 for each of the benefit programs at which time each member  
3 may elect enrollment or change of enrollment without regard  
4 to age, sex, health, or other qualification under the  
5 conditions as may be prescribed in rules and regulations  
6 supplementing this Act. Special open enrollment periods may  
7 be declared by the Director for certain members only when  
8 special circumstances occur that affect only those members.

9 (d) Beginning with fiscal year 2003 and for all  
10 subsequent years, eligible employees may elect not to  
11 participate in the program of health benefits as defined in  
12 this Act. The election must be made during the annual  
13 benefit choice period, subject to the conditions in this  
14 subsection.

15 (1) Employees must furnish proof of health benefit  
16 coverage, either comprehensive major medical coverage or  
17 comprehensive managed care plan, from a source other than  
18 the Department of Central Management Services in order to  
19 elect not to participate in the program.

20 (2) Employees may re-enroll in the Department of  
21 Central Management Services program of health benefits  
22 upon showing a qualifying change in status, as defined in  
23 the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, without evidence of  
24 insurability and with no limitations on coverage for  
25 pre-existing conditions, provided that there was not a  
26 break in coverage of more than 63 days.

27 (3) Employees may also re-enroll in the program of  
28 health benefits during any annual benefit choice period,  
29 without evidence of insurability.

30 (4) Employees who elect not to participate in the  
31 program of health benefits shall be furnished a written  
32 explanation of the requirements and limitations for the  
33 election not to participate in the program and for  
34 re-enrolling in the program. The explanation shall also

1           be included in the annual benefit choice options booklets  
2           furnished to employees.

3           (Source: P.A. 91-390, eff. 7-30-99.)

4           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5           becoming law.