

As Introduced

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H. B. No. 169

Representative Merrin

**Cosponsors: Representatives Faber, Scherer, Keller, Becker, Brinkman, Riedel,
Dean, Zeltwanger, Vitale, Goodman, Henne, Roegner, Butler, Hood, Brenner**

A BILL

To amend section 124.81 and to enact section 1
124.824 of the Revised Code to require, with 2
respect to insurance contracted for or provided 3
by the Department of Administrative Services, an 4
individual who is not covered by a collective 5
bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage 6
of the premium for vision, dental, or life 7
insurance as the individual pays for health 8
insurance. 9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 124.81 be amended and section 10
124.824 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 11

Sec. 124.81. (A) Except as provided in division (F) of 12
this section, the department of administrative services in 13
consultation with the superintendent of insurance shall 14
negotiate with and, in accordance with the competitive selection 15
procedures of Chapter 125. of the Revised Code, contract with 16
one or more insurance companies authorized to do business in 17
this state, for the issuance of one of the following: 18

(1) A policy of group life insurance covering all state 19
employees who are paid directly by warrant of the state auditor, 20
including elected state officials; 21

(2) A combined policy, or coordinated policies of one or 22
more insurance companies or health insuring corporations in 23
combination with one or more insurance companies providing group 24
life and health, medical, hospital, dental, or surgical 25
insurance, or any combination thereof, covering all such 26
employees; 27

(3) A policy that may include, but is not limited to, 28
hospitalization, surgical, major medical, dental, vision, and 29
medical care, disability, hearing aids, prescription drugs, 30
group life, life, sickness, and accident insurance, group legal 31
services, or a combination of the above benefits for some or all 32
of the employees paid in accordance with section 124.152 of the 33
Revised Code and for some or all of the employees listed in 34
divisions (B) (2) and (4) of section 124.14 of the Revised Code, 35
and their immediate dependents. 36

(B) The department of administrative services in 37
consultation with the superintendent of insurance shall 38
negotiate with and, in accordance with the competitive selection 39
procedures of Chapter 125. of the Revised Code, contract with 40
one or more insurance companies authorized to do business in 41
this state, for the issuance of a policy of group life insurance 42
covering all municipal and county court judges. The amount of 43
such coverage shall be an amount equal to the aggregate salary 44
set forth for each municipal court judge in sections 141.04 and 45
1901.11 of the Revised Code, and set forth for each county court 46
judge in sections 141.04 and 1907.16 of the Revised Code. 47

(C) ~~If~~ Notwithstanding section 124.824 of the Revised 48

Code, if a state employee uses all accumulated sick leave and 49
then goes on an extended medical disability, the policyholder 50
shall continue at no cost to the employee the coverage of the 51
group life insurance for such employee for the period of such 52
extended leave, but not beyond three years. 53

(D) If a state employee insured under a group life 54
insurance policy as provided in division (A) of this section is 55
laid off pursuant to section 124.32 of the Revised Code, such 56
employee by request to the policyholder, made no later than the 57
effective date of the layoff, may elect to continue the 58
employee's group life insurance for the one-year period through 59
which the employee may be considered to be on laid-off status by 60
paying the policyholder through payroll deduction or otherwise 61
twelve times the monthly premium computed at the existing 62
average rate for the group life case for the amount of the 63
employee's insurance thereunder at the time of the employee's 64
layoff. The policyholder shall pay the premiums to the insurance 65
company at the time of the next regular monthly premium payment 66
for the actively insured employees and furnish the company 67
appropriate data as to such laid-off employees. At the time an 68
employee receives written notice of a layoff, the policyholder 69
shall also give such employee written notice of the opportunity 70
to continue group life insurance in accordance with this 71
division. When such laid-off employee is reinstated for active 72
work before the end of the one-year period, the employee shall 73
be reclassified as insured again as an active employee under the 74
group and appropriate refunds for the number of full months of 75
unearned premium payment shall be made by the policyholder. 76

(E) This section does not affect the conversion rights of 77
an insured employee when the employee's group insurance 78
terminates under the policy. 79

(F) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, the department may provide benefits equivalent to those that may be paid under a policy issued by an insurance company, or the department may, to comply with a collectively bargained contract, enter into an agreement with a jointly administered trust fund which receives contributions pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement entered into between this state, or any of its political subdivisions, and any collective bargaining representative of the employees of this state or any political subdivision for the purpose of providing for self-insurance of all risk in the provision of fringe benefits similar to those that may be paid pursuant to division (A) of this section, and the jointly administered trust fund may provide through the self-insurance method specific fringe benefits as authorized by the rules of the board of trustees of the jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and that are necessary to administer this section. Benefits provided under this section include, but are not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal services, or a combination of the above benefits, for the employees and their immediate dependents.

(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Revised Code, any public employer, including the state, and any of its political subdivisions, including, but not limited to, any county, county hospital, municipal corporation, township, park district, school district, state institution of higher education, public or special district, state agency, authority,

commission, or board, or any other branch of public employment, 111
and any collective bargaining representative of employees of the 112
state or any political subdivision may agree in a collective 113
bargaining agreement that any mutually agreed fringe benefit 114
including, but not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, 115
major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, 116
medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life 117
insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal 118
services, or a combination thereof, for employees and their 119
dependents be provided through a mutually agreed upon 120
contribution to a jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from 121
the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are 122
attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and 123
that are necessary to administer this section. The amount, type, 124
and structure of fringe benefits provided under this division is 125
subject to the determination of the board of trustees of the 126
jointly administered trust fund. Notwithstanding any other 127
provision of the Revised Code, competitive bidding does not 128
apply to the purchase of fringe benefits for employees under 129
this division through a jointly administered trust fund. 130

Sec. 124.824. (A) An individual who is not covered by a 131
collective bargaining agreement and who receives vision, dental, 132
or life insurance contracted for or provided by the department 133
of administrative services shall pay a percentage of the premium 134
or percentage of the cost of coverage for any of those types of 135
insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or 136
percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is 137
required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided 138
by the department. 139

(B) Pursuant to Section 20 of Article II, Ohio 140
Constitution, if a change in the percentage of the premium or 141

percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or life 142
insurance under division (A) of this section occurs during an 143
individual's term of office, that change does not apply to the 144
individual until the individual's next term of office that 145
begins after the date the change occurs. 146

(C) In negotiating a collective bargaining agreement under 147
Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code, the entity or individual who 148
negotiates on behalf of a state agency, department, board, or 149
commission shall seek to obtain a provision in the agreement 150
that requires an individual to pay a percentage of the premium 151
or percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or 152
life insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or 153
percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is 154
required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided 155
by the department. 156

Section 2. That existing section 124.81 of the Revised 157
Code is hereby repealed. 158