WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1972

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 131

PASSED......... March 11 ............ 1972

In Effect .... July 1, 1972 ............... Passage

FILED IN THE OFFICE
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DATE 3-29-72
AN ACT to amend and reenact sections one, two, three, five, seven, nine, ten, thirteen, fifteen and eighteen, article sixteen, chapter five of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the short title of the “West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Act”; legislative intent; definitions of terms; composition of board; powers and duties of board generally; expenses; creation and establishment of the public employees insurance board as a body corporate; authorization to establish group hospital and surgical insurance plan, group major medical insurance plan and group life and accidental death insurance plan; separate rating for claims experience purposes; rules and regulations for administration of plans; what plans may provide; authorization to execute contracts for group hospital and surgical insurance, group major medical insurance, and group life and accidental death insurance; limitations; awarding of contracts; reinsurance; certificates for covered employees; discontinuance of contracts; contract provisions for group hospital and surgical, group major medical, and group life and accidental death insurance for retiring employees, their spouses and dependents; payment of costs by employer; schedule of insurance; special funds created; duties of treasurer with respect thereto; providing for an expense fund; and rules and regulations for administration of article.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections one, two, three, five, seven, nine, ten, thirteen, fifteen and eighteen, article sixteen, chapter five of the code
of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 16. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE ACT.

§5-16-1. Short title; legislative intent.

1 The short title by which this article may be referred to is "West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Act" and it is the express intent of the Legislature to encourage and promote a uniform partnership relation between all employers and employees participating in the insurance plan or plans formulated under the provisions of this article and to hereby declare same to be a public purpose.

§5-16-2. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases as used in this article, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context, shall have the following meanings:

2 (1) "Board" means the public employees insurance board created by this article.

3 (2) "Employee" means any person, including elected officers, who works regularly full time in the service of the state and, for the purpose of this article only, the term "employee" shall also mean any person who works regularly full time in the service of a county board of education and any person who works regularly full time in the service of the West Virginia board of regents. Any matters of doubt as to who is an employee within the meaning of this article shall be decided by the board.

4 (3) "Retired Employee" shall mean an employee of the state who retired after the twenty-ninth day of April, one thousand nine hundred seventy-one, and an employee of the West Virginia board of regents and a county board of education who retires after the effective date of this article.

5 (4) "Employer" means the state of West Virginia, its boards, agencies, commissions, departments, institutions or spending units and a county board of education. The term "employer" shall not include within its meaning the national guard and any other political subdivision.
§5-16-3. Public employees insurance board created and established; body corporate.

The West Virginia public employees insurance board is hereby created and established to provide group hospital and surgical insurance, group major medical insurance, and group life and accidental death insurance for all employees in the manner as hereinafter provided. The board shall constitute a body corporate. All business of the board shall be transacted in the name of the West Virginia public employees insurance board.

§5-16-5. Composition of board; powers and duties of board generally; expenses.

The board shall consist of:
(a) The auditor of the state by virtue of his office;
(b) The workmen’s compensation commissioner;
(c) The treasurer of the state by virtue of his office.

The board shall hold a meeting at least twice each year and shall designate the time and place. Two board members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board. Each board member shall be entitled to one vote on each question before the board. A majority of the quorum present shall be required for a decision by the board at its meetings. The board shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall keep a record of its proceedings.

The board shall be responsible for the administration and management of the public employees insurance system as provided for in this article and in connection therewith shall have the power and authority to make all rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article, except as is otherwise specifically provided in this article.

No member of the board shall receive any compensation for serving as such; however, each member of the board shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred by him in carrying out his duties as a member of the board.
§5-16-7. **Authorization to establish group hospital and surgical insurance plan, group major medical insurance plan and group life and accidental death insurance plan; rules and regulations for administration of plans; what plans may provide; separate rating for claims experience purposes.**

The board is hereby empowered and authorized to establish a group hospital and surgical insurance plan or plans, a group major medical insurance plan or plans, and a group life and accidental death insurance plan or plans for those employees herein made eligible, and to establish and promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of such plans, subject to the limitations contained in this article. Such plans may provide for group hospital and surgical and group major medical insurance against the financial cost of hospitalization, surgical and medical treatment and care, and may also include, among other things, prescribed drugs, medicines, prosthetic appliances, hospital inpatient and outpatient service benefits, and medical expenses and indemnifying benefits, and group life and accidental death insurance, and such other coverage and benefits deemed appropriate and desirable by the board.

The board may cause to be separately rated for claims experience purposes (1) all employees of the state of West Virginia, (2) all teaching and professional employees of the West Virginia board of regents, county boards of education, (3) all nonteaching employees of the West Virginia board of regents and county boards of education or (4) any other categorization which would insure the stability of the overall program.

§5-16-9. **Authorization to execute contracts for group hospital and surgical insurance, group major medical insurance, and group life and accidental death insurance; limitations; awarding of contracts; reinsurance; certificates for covered employees; discontinuance of contracts.**

The board is hereby given exclusive authorization to execute such contract or contracts as are necessary to
carry out the provisions of this article and to provide the
plan or plans of group hospital and surgical insurance
coverage, group major medical insurance coverage, and
group life and accidental death insurance coverage se-
lected in accordance with the provisions of this article,
such contract or contracts to be executed with one or
more agencies, corporations, insurance companies or
service organizations licensed to sell group hospital and
surgical insurance, group major medical insurance, and
group life and accidental death insurance in this state.

The group life and accidental death insurance herein
provided for shall not exceed an amount equal to the
annual salary of the employee to the nearest one thousand
dollar multiples and under no circumstances shall the
amount of the group life and accidental death insurance
exceed ten thousand dollars for any one employee. The
amount of the group life and accidental death insurance
to which an employee would otherwise be entitled shall
be reduced by fifty percent upon such employee attaining
age sixty-five.

All of the insurance coverage to be provided for under
this article may be included in one or more similar con-
tacts issued by the same or different carriers.

The provisions of article three, chapter five-a of this
code, relating to the division of purchases of the depart-
ment of finance and administration, shall not apply to any
contracts for any insurance coverage authorized to be
executed under the provisions of this article; however,
before entering into any contract for any insurance cover-
age, as herein authorized, said board shall invite compe-
tent bids from all qualified and licensed insurance com-
panies or carriers, who may wish to offer plans for the
insurance coverage desired. The board shall deal directly
with insurers in presenting specifications and receiving
quotations for bid purposes. No commission or finder's
fee, or any combination thereof, shall be paid to any in-
dividual or agent; but this shall not preclude an under-
writing insurance company or companies, at their own
expense, from appointing a licensed resident agent, within
this state, to service the companies' contracts awarded
under the provisions of this article. Commissions reasonably related to actual service rendered for such agent or agents may be paid by the underwriting company or companies: Provided, That in no event shall payment be made to any agent or agents when no actual services are rendered or performed. The board shall award such contract or contracts on a competitive basis. In awarding the contract or contracts the board shall take into account the experience of the offering agency, corporation, insurance companies or service organization in the group hospital and surgical insurance field, group major medical insurance field, and group life and accidental death insurance field, and its facilities for the handling of claims. In evaluating these factors, the board may employ the services of impartial, professional insurance analysts or actuaries or both. Any contract executed by the board with a selected carrier shall be a contract to govern all eligible employees subject to the provisions of this article. Nothing contained in this article shall prohibit any insurance carrier from soliciting employees covered hereunder to purchase additional hospital and surgical, major medical or life and accidental death insurance coverage.

The board may authorize the carrier with whom a primary contract is executed to reinsure portions of such contract with other carriers which elect to be a reinsurer and who are legally qualified to enter into a reinsurance agreement under the laws of this state.

Each employee who is covered under any such contract or contracts shall receive a certificate setting forth a fee schedule of the hospital, surgical or medical benefits to which such employee, his spouse and his dependents are entitled hereunder, to whom such benefits shall be payable, to whom claims shall be submitted, and a summary of the provisions of any such contract or contracts as they affect the employee, his spouse and his dependents.

The board may at the end of any contract period discontinue any contract or contracts it has executed with any carrier and replace the same with a contract or contracts with any other carrier or carriers meeting the requirements of this article.
§5-16-10. Contract provisions for group hospital and surgical, group major medical, and group life and accidental death insurance for retiring employees, their spouses and dependents.

Any contract or contracts entered into hereunder may provide for group hospital and surgical, group major medical, and group life and accidental death insurance for retiring employees and their spouses and dependents as defined by rules and regulations of the board, and on such terms as the board may deem appropriate.

In the event the board provides the above benefits for retiring employees, their spouses and dependents, the board shall adopt rules and regulations prescribing the conditions under which retiring employees may elect to participate in or withdraw from the plan or plans. Any contract or contracts herein provided for shall supplement any hospital, surgical, major medical or health insurance plan administered by the United States department of health, education and welfare to which the employee, spouse or dependent may be eligible under any law or regulation of the United States.

§5-16-13. Payment of costs by employer; schedule of insurance; special funds created; duties of treasurer with respect thereto.

The state shall pay for each employee a monthly sum for all insurance coverage provided in this article as set forth in the following schedule of insurance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Compensation</th>
<th>Employee Only</th>
<th>Employee And Family</th>
<th>Employee Life</th>
<th>Coverage for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $1,500</td>
<td>$ 9.34</td>
<td>$25.09</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500 but less than 2,500</td>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>25.68</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 but less than 3,500</td>
<td>10.51</td>
<td>26.26</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500 but less than 4,500</td>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>26.85</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,500 but less than 5,500</td>
<td>11.69</td>
<td>27.44</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,500 but less than 6,500</td>
<td>12.28</td>
<td>28.03</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,500 but less than 7,500</td>
<td>12.87</td>
<td>28.62</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,500 but less than 8,500</td>
<td>13.45</td>
<td>29.20</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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18  8,500 but less than 9,500  14.04  29.79  9,000  9,000
19  9,500 and over        14.63  30.38  10,000 10,000
20  *For the full plan of benefits in each salary classification
21 relating to group hospital and surgical insurance, group
22 major medical insurance, and group life and accidental
23 death insurance.
24  The Legislature shall appropriate annually from the
25 general revenue fund such sums as may be required to
26 pay the state's proportionate share of the premium costs
27 of those spending units operating from the general reve-
28 nue fund, and each spending unit operating from special
29 revenue funds, or federal funds, or both, shall pay to
30 the board their proportionate share of premium costs
31 from their personal services budget.
32  The portion of the premium or cost attributable to all
33 insurance coverage provided hereunder and not paid by
34 the state shall be paid by the employee, and in no event
35 shall the employee's contribution exceed thirty percent
36 of the cost of the employee's insurance package.
37  The employee's proportionate share of the premium or
38 cost shall be withheld or deducted by the employer from
39 such employee's salary or wages as and when paid and
40 such sums shall be forwarded to the board with such
41 supporting data as the board may require.
42  All moneys received by the board shall be deposited in
43 a special fund or funds as are necessary in the state
44 treasury and the treasurer of the state shall be custodian
45 of such fund or funds and shall administer such fund or
46 funds in accordance with the provisions of this article or
47 as the board may from time to time direct. The treasurer
48 shall pay all warrants issued by the state auditor against
49 such fund or funds as the board may direct in accordance
50 with the provisions of this article.

§5-16-15. Expense fund.

1  The Legislature shall annually appropriate such sums
2 as may be necessary to pay the proportionate share of
3 the administrative costs for the state as an employer, and
4 each division, agency, board, commission or department
5 of the state which operates out of special revenue funds
6 or federal funds or both shall pay its proportionate share
of the administrative costs of the insurance plan or plans authorized under the provisions of this article.

A county board of education shall pay no administrative costs other than those related to the withholding or deducting of an employee's proportionate share of the premium or cost for the insurance plan or plans herein authorized.

§5-16-18. Rules and regulations for administration of article.

The board shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required for the effective administration of the provisions of this article. All rules and regulations of the board and all hearings held by the board shall be promulgated and held in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of the code.

Such regulations shall provide that any employee of the state who has been compelled or required by law to retire before reaching the age of sixty-five years shall be eligible for coverage at their own expense for the total cost of coverage, as provided under this article, and the dependents of any deceased member shall be entitled to continue their participation and coverage upon payment of the total cost for such coverage. Any employee who voluntarily retires, as provided by law, shall be eligible to participate in the public employees health insurance program at his own expense for the total cost of such coverage.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1972.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within-disappeared this the 27th day of March, 1972.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR

Date 3/17/72

Time 12:30 p.m.