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By: **Delegate Elmore**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2006

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Personnel - State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits**  
3 **Program - Participation by Former Employees of Somerset County -**  
4 **Authorized**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing former employees of Somerset County to enroll and  
6 participate in the health insurance benefit options established under the State  
7 Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program under certain  
8 circumstances and subject to certain terms and conditions; providing that years  
9 of service with Somerset County are considered years of State service for  
10 purposes of establishing eligibility for participation in the Program; requiring  
11 Somerset County to pay to the State, for each former employee who participates  
12 in the Program, the employer share of the cost of the Program based on a certain  
13 State subsidy; and generally relating to the participation by former employees of  
14 Somerset County in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare  
15 Benefits Program.

16 BY adding to  
17 Article - State Personnel and Pensions  
18 Section 2-513.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

24 2-513.1.

25 (A) WHILE RECEIVING AN ALLOWANCE UNDER THE EMPLOYEES'  
26 RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND OR THE EMPLOYEES' PENSION  
27 SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF SOMERSET COUNTY,  
28 WITH APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY:

1           (1)     MAY ENROLL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE  
2 BENEFIT OPTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

3           (2)     EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS  
4 SUBJECT TO THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THOSE PROVIDED UNDER § 2-508  
5 OF THIS SUBTITLE, WITH THE FORMER EMPLOYEE'S SERVICE WITH SOMERSET  
6 COUNTY BEING CONSIDERED YEARS OF STATE SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF  
7 ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY UNDER § 2-508(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

8       (B)     FOR EACH PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SECTION, SOMERSET COUNTY  
9 SHALL PAY TO THE STATE THE EMPLOYER SHARE OF THE COST OF THE PROGRAM  
10 BASED ON THE STATE SUBSIDY ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

11     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 June 1, 2006.