
By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2006

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Employee Health and Welfare Benefits Program - Judges' Retirement**
3 **System - Eligibility - Surviving Spouse or Dependent Child**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing surviving spouses or dependent children of certain
5 members or retirees of the Judges' Retirement System to enroll and participate
6 in certain health insurance benefits under the State Employee and Retiree
7 Health and Welfare Benefits Program; providing that certain surviving spouses
8 or dependent children are eligible for certain State subsidies; and generally
9 relating to the State Employee Health and Welfare Benefits Program, the
10 Judges' Retirement System, and the enrollment and benefit eligibility of
11 surviving spouses and dependent children.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
14 Section 2-507 and 2-508(c)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

20 2-507.

21 (a) Subject to the regulations adopted under § 2-503 of this subtitle, a State
22 employee may enroll and participate in any of the health insurance or other benefit
23 options established under the Program.

24 (b) The surviving spouse of a State employee who died while employed by the
25 State may enroll and participate in the health insurance benefit options established
26 under the Program as long as the surviving spouse:

27 (1) is receiving an allowance under Title 29, Subtitle 2 of this article; or

1 (2) is the sole primary designated beneficiary and receiving a periodic
2 distribution of benefits under an optional retirement program under Title 30 of this
3 article.

4 (c) The surviving minor child or dependent parent of a State Police officer who
5 died while employed by the State may enroll and participate in the health insurance
6 benefit options established under the Program as long as the child or parent is
7 receiving an allowance under Title 29, Subtitle 2 of this article.

8 (D) THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD OF A MEMBER OF THE
9 JUDGES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM WHO DIED WHILE EMPLOYED BY THE STATE MAY
10 ENROLL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT OPTIONS
11 ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM AS LONG AS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OR
12 DEPENDENT CHILD:

13 (1) IS RECEIVING AN ALLOWANCE UNDER TITLE 27 OF THIS ARTICLE;
14 AND

15 (2) IS ENTITLED, UNDER § 2-508(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO
16 ONE-SIXTEENTH OF THE STATE SUBSIDY ALLOWED A STATE EMPLOYEE FOR EACH
17 YEAR OF THE RETIREE'S CREDITABLE SERVICE, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 YEARS.

18 2-508.

19 (c) (1) If a retiree receives a State disability retirement allowance or has 16
20 or more years of creditable service, the retiree or the retiree's surviving spouse or
21 dependent child is entitled to the same State subsidy allowed a State employee.

22 (2) [In] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
23 IN all other cases, if a retiree has at least 5 years of creditable service, the retiree or
24 the retiree's surviving spouse or dependent child is entitled to [1/16]
25 ONE-SIXTEENTH of the State subsidy allowed a State employee for each year of the
26 retiree's creditable service up to 16 years.

27 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsection
28 (a)(4)(i) of this section, if a retiree is an additional employee or agent of the State
29 Racing Commission, for the purposes of determining a retiree's State subsidy,
30 creditable service shall be determined with respect to service as an additional
31 employee or agent beginning from the initial date of employment or January 1, 1986,
32 whichever is later.

33 (4) THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD OF A RETIREE OF
34 THE JUDGES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

35 (I) MAY ENROLL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE
36 BENEFIT OPTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

37 (II) IS ENTITLED TO ONE-SIXTEENTH OF THE STATE SUBSIDY
38 ALLOWED A STATE EMPLOYEE FOR EACH YEAR OF THE RETIREE'S CREDITABLE
39 SERVICE, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 16 YEARS.

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