

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 54-52-04 and three new
2 sections to chapter 54-52.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to expansion of the
3 uniform group insurance program to allow participation by members of the North Dakota
4 national guard; to amend and reenact section 54-52.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code,
5 relating to subgroups under the uniform group insurance program; to provide an appropriation;
6 and to provide a continuing appropriation.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 54-52-04 of the North Dakota Century Code
9 is created and enacted as follows:

10 The board shall operate the uniform group insurance program as a governmental
11 benefit plan.

12 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-52.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **54-52.1-02. Uniform group insurance program created - Formation into**
15 **subgroups.** In order to promote the economy and efficiency of employment in the state's
16 service, to reduce personnel turnover, ~~and~~ to offer an incentive to high-grade ~~men and women~~
17 employees to enter and remain in the service of state employment, to attract a highly qualified
18 workforce to the state, and to promote the general health and well-being of the people of North
19 Dakota, there is ~~hereby~~ created a uniform group insurance program. The uniform group must
20 be composed of eligible and retired public employees and members of the North Dakota
21 national guard and be formed to provide hospital benefits coverage, medical benefits coverage,
22 and life insurance benefits coverage in the manner set forth in this chapter. The uniform group
23 may be divided into the following subgroups at the discretion of the board:

- 1 1. Medical and hospital benefits coverage group consisting of active eligible
- 2 employees and retired employees not eligible for medicare. In determining
- 3 premiums for coverage under this subsection for retired employees not eligible for
- 4 medicare, the rate for a non-medicare retiree single plan is one hundred fifty
- 5 percent of the active member single plan rate, the rate for a non-medicare retiree
- 6 family plan of two people is twice the non-medicare retiree single plan rate, and the
- 7 rate for a non-medicare retiree family plan of three or more persons is two and
- 8 one-half times the non-medicare retiree single plan rate.
- 9 2. Retired medicare-eligible employee group medical and hospital benefits coverage.
- 10 3. Active eligible employee life insurance benefits coverage.
- 11 4. Retired employee life insurance benefits coverage.
- 12 5. Terminated employee continuation group medical and hospital benefits coverage.
- 13 6. Terminated employee conversion group medical and hospital benefits coverage.
- 14 7. Dental benefits coverage.
- 15 8. Vision benefits coverage.
- 16 9. Long-term care benefits coverage.
- 17 10. Employee assistance benefits coverage.
- 18 11. North Dakota national guard group medical hospital benefits coverage.

19 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 54-52.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 created and enacted as follows:

21 **Participation by members of the North Dakota national guard.** A member of the
22 North Dakota national guard who is a resident of this state may elect to participate in the
23 uniform group insurance program by completing the necessary enrollment forms. The board
24 shall provide coverage for the member, the member's spouse, and the member's dependents.
25 For purposes of this section, "resident" means a person who has actually lived within this state
26 or maintained a home in this state for at least six months immediately preceding the date on
27 which the person applies to participate in the uniform group insurance plan. A person may only
28 be a resident of one state at a time. A person participating in the uniform group insurance
29 program under this section shall pay monthly to the board the premiums in effect for the
30 coverage being provided. Coverage for members of the North Dakota national guard under this
31 section is secondary and supplemental to any military health benefits coverage otherwise being

1 provided to the member. Eligibility to participate under this section terminates if the member
2 resides outside this state for a period of more than one year. A member who is outside this
3 state for more than one year because of active duty with the national guard does not lose
4 eligibility to participate in the uniform group insurance program under this Act.

5 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 54-52.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Use of agents authorized.** The board may use, and pay commissions to, insurance
8 agents licensed under chapter 26.1-26 to sell health insurance for coverage under sections 2
9 and 3 of this Act. The board may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

10 **SECTION 5.** A new section to chapter 54-52.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
11 created and enacted as follows:

12 **Acceptance of moneys - Continuing appropriation.** The board may accept grants,
13 donations, legacies, and devises for the purpose of implementing this chapter. All of these
14 moneys, not otherwise appropriated, are appropriated to the board for the purpose of
15 implementing this chapter.

16 **SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.** There is appropriated out of any moneys received by
17 the North Dakota public employees retirement system board in the form of insurance premiums,
18 grants, donations, legacies, and devises, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$300,000, or
19 so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the public employees retirement system for the
20 purpose of expanding the uniform group insurance program, for the biennium beginning July 1,
21 2007, and ending June 30, 2009. The board is authorized three additional full-time equivalent
22 positions to implement this Act.