

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

SENATE BILL NO. 2060
(Government and Veterans Affairs Committee)
(At the request of the Public Employees Retirement System)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-52.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an employer-based wellness program; and to amend and reenact subsection 4 of section 54-52.1-01, subsection 3 of section 54-52.1-03, and sections 54-52.1-03.1, 54-52.1-11, and 54-52.3-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to eligibility for and employee payments to the uniform group insurance program and confidentiality of information under the uniform group insurance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 4 of section 54-52.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

4. "Eligible employee" means every permanent employee who is employed by a governmental unit, as that term is defined in section 54-52-01. "Eligible employee" includes members of the legislative assembly, judges of the supreme court, paid members of state or political subdivision boards, commissions, or associations, full-time employees of political subdivisions, elective state officers as defined by subsection 2 of section 54-06-01, and disabled permanent employees who are receiving compensation from the North Dakota workers' compensation fund. As used in this subsection, "permanent employee" means one whose services are not limited in duration, who is filling an approved and regularly funded position in a governmental unit, and who is employed at least seventeen and one-half hours per week and at least five months each year or for those first employed after August 1, 2003, is employed at least twenty hours per week and at least twenty weeks each year of employment. For purposes of sections 54-52.1-04.1, 54-52.1-04.7, 54-52.1-04.8, and 54-52.1-11, "eligible employee" includes retired and terminated employees who remain eligible to participate in the uniform group insurance program pursuant to applicable state or federal law.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subsection 3 of section 54-52.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

3. A retiree who has accepted a periodic distribution from the defined contribution retirement plan pursuant to section 54-52.6-13 who the board determines is eligible for participation in the uniform group insurance program or has accepted a retirement allowance from the public employees retirement system, the highway patrolmen's retirement system, the teachers' insurance and annuity association of America - college retirement equities fund (~~TIAA-GREF~~) for service credit earned while employed by North Dakota institutions of higher education, the retirement system established by job service North Dakota under section 52-11-01, the judges' retirement system established under chapter 27-17, or the teachers' fund for retirement may elect to participate in the uniform group under this chapter without meeting minimum requirements at age sixty-five, when the member's spouse reaches age sixty-five, upon the receipt of a benefit, or when the spouse terminates employment. If a retiree or surviving spouse does not elect to participate at the times specified in this subsection, the retiree or surviving spouse must meet the minimum requirements established by the board. Subject to sections 54-52.1-03.2 and 54-52.1-03.3, each retiree or surviving spouse shall pay directly to the board the premiums in effect for the coverage then being provided. A retiree who has met the initial eligibility requirements of this subsection to begin participation in the uniform group insurance

program remains eligible as long as the retiree maintains the retiree's participation in the program by paying the required premium pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.1-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.1-03.1. Certain political subdivisions authorized to join uniform group insurance program - Employer contribution. A political subdivision may extend the benefits of the uniform group insurance program under this chapter to its permanent employees, subject to minimum requirements established by the board and a minimum period of participation of sixty months. If the political subdivision withdraws from participation in the uniform group insurance program, before completing sixty months of participation, the political subdivision shall make payment to the board in an amount equal to any expenses incurred in the uniform group insurance program that exceed income received on behalf of the political subdivision's employees as determined under rules adopted by the board. ~~The political subdivision may determine the amount of the employer's monthly contribution toward the total monthly premium amount required of each eligible participating employee.~~

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

Wellness program. The board shall develop an employer-based wellness program. The program must encourage employers to adopt a board-developed wellness program by either charging extra health insurance premium to nonparticipating employers or reducing premium for participating employers.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.1-11. Confidentiality of employee records. Information pertaining to an eligible employee's group medical records for claims, employee premium payments made, salary reduction amounts taken, history of any available insurance coverage purchased, and amounts and types of insurance applied for under the supplemental life insurance coverage under this chapter is confidential and is not a public record. The information and records may be disclosed, under rules adopted by the board, only to:

1. A person to whom the eligible employee has given written ~~consent~~ authorization to have the information disclosed.
2. A person legally representing the eligible employee, upon proper proof of representation, and unless the eligible employee specifically withholds ~~consent~~ authorization.
3. A person authorized by a court order.
4. A person or entity to which the board is required to disclose information pursuant to federal or state statutes or regulations.
5. ~~If involved in a dissolution proceeding, the member's spouse or former spouse, that person's legal representative, and the judge presiding over the member's dissolution proceeding.~~ Any person or entity if the purpose of the disclosure is for treatment, payment, or health care operations.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 54-52.3-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

54-52.3-05. Confidentiality of program records. Any records and information pertaining to a public employee's medical and dependent care reimbursement under the pretax benefits program are confidential and are not public records subject to section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota. The records and information may be disclosed, under rules adopted by the board, only to:

1. A person to whom the employee has given written ~~consent~~ authorization to have the information disclosed.
2. A person legally representing the employee, upon proper proof of representation.
3. A person authorized by a court order.
4. A person or entity to which the board is required to disclose information pursuant to federal or state statutes or regulations.
5. Any person or entity if the purpose of the disclosure is for health care treatment, payment, or operations.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2060.

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 91 Nays 0 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State