

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Carlson and others

Subject: Continuation health coverage for spouses of retired school employees

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Overview

This bill involves teachers who were granted early retirement incentives in 1993 legislation. One part of the incentive package was the right for the retired employee and spouse to continue in the school district's health plan at no charge until the retired employee reaches age 65, which is the age of Medicare eligibility. No provision was made for younger spouses. This bill would permit those younger spouses to continue in the school district's health plan until the spouse reaches age 65, by paying the full cost of the coverage.

Section

- 1 **Spouse insurance coverage.** (a) Provides continuation coverage option for spouses of certain retired school employees, who took early retirement under 1993 legislation. Permits the spouse to continue coverage until the spouse or the retiree reaches age 65, whichever is later. Requires that the spouse pay the full premium for his or her coverage after the retired employee reaches age 65.
(b) Provides that spouses terminated prior to this act may re-enroll only if they notify the employer no later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.
- 2 **Effective date.** Provides immediate effective date and applies to spouses of retirees who reached age 65 prior to the effective date and permits spouses of those retirees to re-enroll in the health plan if they were terminated due to the retired employee having reached the age of 65.