

By Senator Ring

32-00394A-10

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the state group insurance program;
 3 amending s. 110.123, F.S.; providing that graduate
 4 assistants at state universities may be covered by the
 5 program if the university they are attending elects to
 6 pay the cost of participation; providing an effective
 7 date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Present paragraphs (d) through (n) of subsection
 12 (2) of section 110.123, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 13 paragraphs (e) through (o), respectively, a new paragraph (d) is
 14 added to that subsection, and present paragraphs (d) through (f)
 15 of that subsection and paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of that
 16 section are amended, to read:

17 110.123 State group insurance program.—

18 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

19 (d) "Graduate assistant" means a graduate-level student at
 20 a state university who provides teaching or research
 21 responsibilities on a part-time basis for compensation. For the
 22 purposes of this section, a graduate assistant is a state
 23 employee.

24 (e)~~(d)~~ "Health maintenance organization" or "HMO" means an
 25 entity certified under part I of chapter 641.

26 (f)~~(e)~~ "Health plan member" means any person participating
 27 in a state group health insurance plan, a TRICARE supplemental
 28 insurance plan, or a health maintenance organization plan under
 29 the state group insurance program, including enrollees and

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30 covered dependents ~~thereof~~.

31 (g)~~(f)~~ "Part-time state employee" means any employee of any
32 branch or agency of state government paid by state warrant from
33 salary appropriations or from agency funds, and who is employed
34 for less than the normal full-time workweek established by the
35 department or, if on academic contract or seasonal or other type
36 of employment which is less than year-round, is employed for
37 less than 8 months during any 12-month period. Except for
38 graduate assistants as provided in paragraph (3)(g), the term
39 does not, but in no case shall "part-time" employee include a
40 person paid from other personal services as defined in s.
41 216.011 other-personal-services (OPS) funds. "Part-time state
42 employee" includes any part-time employee of the state
43 universities.

44 (3) STATE GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM.—

45 (g) Participation by individuals in the program is
46 available to all state officers, full-time state employees, and
47 part-time state employees; and such participation in the program
48 or any plan is voluntary. Participation in the program is also
49 available to:

50 1. Retired state officers and employees, ~~as defined in~~
51 ~~paragraph (2)(g),~~ who elect at the time of retirement to
52 continue all or part of the coverage they had under the program,
53 ~~but they may elect to continue all or only part of the coverage~~
54 ~~they had~~ at the time of retirement.

55 2. A surviving spouse who elects ~~may elect~~ to continue
56 coverage only under a state group health insurance plan, a
57 TRICARE supplemental insurance plan, or a health maintenance
58 organization plan.

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59 3. Graduate assistants paid from other personal services if
60 the university they are attending elects to pay the state
61 contribution for the cost of participation in the state plan.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.