
SENATE BILL 5696

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Robinson and Hunt

Read first time 02/03/23. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to eligibility for participation in the public
2 employees' benefits board for retired or disabled employees of
3 counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions; amending
4 RCW 41.05.080; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 41.05.080 and 2018 c 260 s 15 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Under the qualifications, terms, conditions, and benefits set
9 by the public employees' benefits board:

10 (a) (i) Retired or disabled state employees, retired or disabled
11 school employees, retired or disabled employees of (~~county,~~
12 ~~municipal~~) counties, municipalities, or other political
13 subdivisions, or retired or disabled employees of tribal governments
14 covered by this chapter may continue their participation in insurance
15 plans and contracts after retirement or disablement.

16 (ii) The retired or disabled employees of a county, municipality,
17 or other political subdivision whose contractual agreement with the
18 authority terminates may continue their participation in insurance
19 plans and contracts after the contractual agreement is terminated.
20 The retired or disabled employees of a county, municipality, or other
21 political subdivision whose contractual agreement with the authority

1 terminates are not eligible for any subsidy provided under RCW
2 41.05.085;

3 (b) Separated employees may continue their participation in
4 insurance plans and contracts if participation is selected
5 immediately upon separation from employment;

6 (c) Surviving spouses, surviving state registered domestic
7 partners, and dependent children of emergency service personnel
8 killed in the line of duty may participate in insurance plans and
9 contracts.

10 (2) Rates charged surviving spouses and surviving state
11 registered domestic partners of emergency service personnel killed in
12 the line of duty, retired or disabled employees, separated employees,
13 spouses, or dependent children who are not eligible for parts A and B
14 of medicare shall be based on the experience of the community-rated
15 risk pool established under RCW 41.05.022.

16 (3) Rates charged to surviving spouses and surviving state
17 registered domestic partners of emergency service personnel killed in
18 the line of duty, retired or disabled employees, separated employees,
19 spouses, or children who are eligible for parts A and B of medicare
20 shall be calculated from a separate experience risk pool comprised
21 only of individuals eligible for parts A and B of medicare; however,
22 the premiums charged to medicare-eligible retirees and disabled
23 employees shall be reduced by the amount of the subsidy provided
24 under RCW 41.05.085, except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii) of
25 this section.

26 (4) Surviving spouses, surviving state registered domestic
27 partners, and dependent children of emergency service personnel
28 killed in the line of duty and retired or disabled and separated
29 employees shall be responsible for payment of premium rates developed
30 by the authority which shall include the cost to the authority of
31 providing insurance coverage including any amounts necessary for
32 reserves and administration in accordance with this chapter. These
33 self pay rates will be established based on a separate rate for the
34 employee, the spouse, state registered domestic partners, and the
35 children.

36 (5) The term "retired state employees" for the purpose of this
37 section shall include but not be limited to members of the
38 legislature whether voluntarily or involuntarily leaving state
39 office.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Any retired or disabled employee whose
2 participation in insurance plans or contracts under RCW
3 41.05.080(1)(a) ended due to the termination of the contractual
4 agreement between the authority and a county, municipality, or other
5 political subdivision on or before January 1, 2023, must be allowed
6 to return and participate in insurance plans and contracts so long as
7 the retired or disabled employee notifies the health care authority
8 in writing by December 31, 2023, after which participation will begin
9 on the first day of the month following the date the authority
10 receives the retired or disabled employee's written notice.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
13 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
14 effect immediately.

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