

SENATE, No. 1926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Senator PALAIA

1 AN ACT concerning paid health benefits under the State Health  
2 Benefits Program for certain veteran retirees of the Teachers'  
3 Pension and Annuity Fund and amending P.L.1987, c.384.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.384 (C.52:14-17.32f) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 3. A qualified retiree from the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund  
11 (N.J.S.18A:66-1 et seq.) and dependents of a qualified retiree, but not  
12 including survivors, are eligible to participate in the program,  
13 regardless of whether the retiree's employer participated in the  
14 program.

15 A qualified retiree is a retiree who:

16 a. Retired on a benefit based on 25 or more years of service credit;  
17 b. Retired on a disability pension based on fewer years of service  
18 credit; **[or]**

19 c. Elected deferred retirement based on 25 or more years of service  
20 credit and who receives a retirement allowance; or

21 d. Retired on a benefit based on 20 or more years of service credit  
22 under the provisions of veterans retirement (N.J.S.18A:66-71).

23 The program shall reimburse a qualified retiree who participates in  
24 the program for the premium charges under Part B of the federal  
25 medicare program for the retiree and the retiree's spouse. [A qualified  
26 retiree who retired under subsections a. and b. of this section prior to  
27 the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act is  
28 eligible for the coverage if the retiree applies to the program for it  
29 within one year after the effective date, and a qualified retiree as  
30 defined under subsection c. of this section whose retirement allowance  
31 commenced prior to the effective date of this 1992 amendatory act is  
32 eligible for the coverage if the retiree applies to the program for it  
33 within one year after the effective date.]

34 The premium or periodic charges for benefits provided to a

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 qualified retiree and the dependents of the retiree, and the cost for  
2 reimbursement of medicare premiums shall be paid by the Teachers'  
3 Pension and Annuity Fund.

4 (cf: P.L.1994, c.62, s. 12)

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6 2. (New section) A qualified retiree who retired under subsection  
7 d. of section 3 of P.L.1987, c.384 (C.52:14-17.32f) as amended by  
8 P.L.199 , c. ) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) prior  
9 to the effective date of the amendatory act is eligible for the coverage  
10 if the retiree applies to the program for it within one year after the  
11 effective date.

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13 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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16 STATEMENT

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18 This bill permits certain veteran retirees who are members of the  
19 Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) to receive paid health  
20 benefits under the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP).

21 Under current law, a qualified retiree from TPAF and the retiree's  
22 dependents are eligible for paid health benefits in SHBP regardless of  
23 whether the retiree's employer participated in the program. A qualified  
24 retiree is defined as a retiree who retired on a benefit based on 25 or  
25 more years of service credit or on a disability pension based on fewer  
26 years of service credit, or who elected deferred retirement based on 25  
27 or more years of service credit and who receives a retirement  
28 allowance.

29 The bill includes as a qualified retiree a member of TPAF who  
30 retired under the provisions of veterans retirement provided for in  
31 N.J.S.18A:66-71, which permits a member to retire if that member has  
32 attained the age of 60 and has 20 or more years of service credit.

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37 Permits certain TPAF veteran retirees to receive paid health benefits  
38 under State Health Benefits Program.