SENATE CHAMBER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DISPOSITION

■ **FLOOR AMENDMENT**   No. ____I____

☐ **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

_____
(Date)

I move to amend Senate Bill No. 473, by substituting the attached floor substitute (Request #2008) for the title, enacting clause, and entire body of the measure.

Submitted by: _____

Senator Paxton

I hereby grant permission for the floor substitute to be adopted.
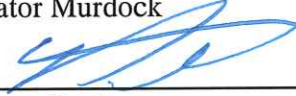
_____
Senator Pugh, Chair (required)

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Senator Seifried

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Senator Bergstrom

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Senator Daniels

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Senator Dossett

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Senator Green

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Senator Treat, President Pro Tempore

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Senator Hicks

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Senator Murdock

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Senator Paxton

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Senator Pemberton

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Senator Rader

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Senator Thompson (Kristen)

_____
Senator McCortney, Majority Floor Leader

Note: Education committee majority requires seven (7) members' signatures.

I hereby grant permission for the floor substitute to be adopted.

_____
Senator Thompson (Roger)
Appropriations Committee Chair

Paxton-EB-FS-SB473
3/6/2023 1:06 PM

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(Floor Amendments Only)   Date and Time Filed: __3-14-23__   9:46 am

☐ Untimely   ☐ Amendment Cycle Extended   ☐ Secondary Amendment

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

FLOOR SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 473   By: Paxton

FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

[insurance benefits – education employees – leave of
absence – effective date –
                                        emergency]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1.   AMENDATORY   74 O.S. 2021, Section 1308.1, is

amended to read as follows:

Section 1308.1. (1) A. An educational entity may extend the

benefits of the health insurance plan, the dental insurance plan,

and the life insurance plan to education employees employed by the

entity. The benefits of the plans for an education employee shall

be the same and shall include the same plan options as would be made

available to a state employee participating in the plan that resided

at the same location. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section

1308.2 of this title, a period shall exist for enrolling education

entities from April 1, 1989, through October 1, 1991, whereby

education employees of a participating education entity may be

1   enrolled, ~~pursuant to this act,~~ during the entities' initial

2   enrollment period, regardless of preexisting conditions. The Office

3   of Management and Enterprise Services shall adopt rules and

4   regulations for enrollment by which education entities may apply to

5   participate in the insurance plans. Once an education entity

6   becomes a participant in the health and dental insurance plans

7   offered through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act,

8   the education entity may withdraw from participation, in a manner

9   prescribed by the Office. If a school district is participating in

10 the health and dental insurance plans pursuant to the Oklahoma

11 Employees Insurance and Benefits Act, Sections 1301 through 1329.1

12 of this title, the employees of the school district who are eligible

13 to participate in the health and dental plans, at such time as the

14 school district may withdraw from such participation, may require

15 the board of education of the school district to call an election to

16 allow the employees to vote as to whether the school district shall

17 continue participation in the health and dental insurance plans

18 offered through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act.

19 Upon the filing with the board of education of a petition calling

20 for such an election which is signed by no less than thirty percent

21 (30%) of the eligible employees of the school district, the board of

22 education shall call an election for the purpose of determining

23 whether the school district shall continue participation in the

24 health and dental insurance plans offered through the Oklahoma

Employees Insurance and Benefits Act. The election shall be held

within thirty (30) days of the filing of the petition. If a

majority of those eligible employees voting at the election vote to

continue participation in the health and dental insurance plans

offered through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act,

the board of education shall be prohibited from withdrawing the

school district from such participation. If a majority of those

eligible employees voting at the election vote against continued

participation in the health and dental insurance plans offered

through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act, the board

of education of the school district shall apply to discontinue such

participation within thirty (30) days of the election and within the

times the school district is authorized to withdraw from

participation in accordance with rules established for withdrawal by

the Office.

    ~~(2)~~ B. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, when an

education entity participates in the health and dental insurance

plans offered through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits

Act, all employees shall be advised of ~~Health Maintenance~~

~~Organizations~~ health maintenance organizations (HMO) prepaid plans

available as an alternative to the state self-insured health

insurance plan. Eligible part-time education employees, at the

option of the employee, may enroll in the plans either at the time

the education entity begins participation in the plans or, if later,

upon a showing of insurability to the satisfaction of the Office.

~~(3)~~ C. Any employee of an education entity participating in the

health and dental insurance plans offered through the Oklahoma

Employees Insurance and Benefits Act who is employed after the

education entity began ~~said~~ participation may be enrolled in the

health and dental insurance plans or HMO plans approved by the

Office on the first day of the second month of employment.

~~(4)~~ D. Upon initial enrollment of an institution of higher

education to participate in the health and dental insurance plans

offered through the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act,

all individuals presently insured by ~~said~~ the institution's present

group health insurance plan shall become enrolled in ~~said~~ state

plans for the remaining period of ~~said~~ the institution's contractual

liabilities.

~~(5) Education employees who shall be absent from the teaching~~

~~service because of election or appointment as a local, state, or~~

~~national education association officer shall be allowed to retain~~

~~coverage pursuant to the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits~~

~~Act upon the payment of the full cost of the coverage at the rate~~

~~and under such terms and conditions established by the Office.~~

~~(6)~~ E. Except as otherwise provided by law, an educational

entity may cease to participate in the Oklahoma Employees Insurance

and Benefits Act but provide health insurance coverage through

1 another insurance carrier. The subsequent carrier shall provide

2 coverage to the employees of the educational entity who terminated

3 employment with a retirement benefit, with a vested benefit, or who

4 have ten (10) or more years of service with a participating

5 educational entity but did not have a vested benefit through the

6 retirement system of the educational entity, if the election to

7 retain health insurance coverage was made within thirty (30) days of

8 termination of employment. Coverage shall also be provided to the

9 eligible dependents of the employees if an election to retain

10 coverage is made within thirty (30) days of termination of

11 employment.

12   SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

13   SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation

14 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby

15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and

16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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18   59-1-2008   EB   3/6/2023 2:59:36 PM

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