

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

H.237

Introduced by Representative Hooper of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Legislature; salaries and fees; health insurance; life insurance;  
retirees; State employees; legislator compensation and benefits

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make members of the General Assembly eligible for the State employees health benefit plan, with the General Assembly paying 80 percent of the premium and members paying 20 percent. It would make members of the General Assembly eligible for \$15,000.00 in term life insurance while in office, with the General Assembly paying 75 percent of the premium and members paying 25 percent, and it would increase the amount of the life insurance benefit for retired State employees from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. The bill would also provide compensation to members of the General Assembly during adjournment in an amount equal to 10 percent of their weekly salary during the legislative session.

18 An act relating to health insurance, life insurance, and adjournment  
19 compensation for members of the General Assembly

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 479 is amended to read:

3 479. GROUP INSURANCE

4 (a) As provided under section 631 of this title, a member who is insured by  
5 the respective group insurance plans immediately preceding the member's  
6 effective date of retirement shall be entitled to continuation of group insurance  
7 as follows:

8 \* \* \*

9 (2) members who have completed 20 years of creditable service at their  
10 effective date of retirement shall be entitled to the continuation of life  
11 insurance in the amount of ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$15,000.00.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

14 § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY  
15 DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND  
16 CREDIT UNIONS

17 (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State  
18 with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this  
19 State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. Beginning on  
20 July 1, 1978, the terms of coverage under the policy shall be determined under  
21 section 904 of this title, but it may include:

1 \* \* \*

2 (2)(A)(i) As used in this section, the term “employees” includes any  
3 class or classes of elected or appointed officials, State’s Attorneys, sheriffs,  
4 employees of State’s Attorneys’ offices whose compensation is administered  
5 through the State of Vermont payroll system, except contractual and temporary  
6 employees, and deputy sheriffs paid by the State of Vermont pursuant to  
7 24 V.S.A. § 290(b). The term “employees” ~~shall~~ does not include ~~members of~~  
8 ~~the General Assembly as such~~, any person rendering service on a retainer or  
9 fee basis, members of boards or commissions, ~~or persons other than employees~~  
10 ~~of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film Corporation, the~~  
11 ~~Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, Vermont State Employees’~~  
12 ~~Association, and the Vermont Council on the Arts~~, whose compensation for  
13 service is not paid from the State Treasury, or any elected or appointed official  
14 ~~unless the~~ except as specifically provided pursuant to this subdivision  
15 (a)(2)(A)(i). The term “employees” includes employees of the Vermont  
16 Historical Society, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont  
17 State Employees’ Association, the Vermont Council on the Arts, and any  
18 elected or appointed official who is actively engaged in and devoting  
19 substantially full-time to the conduct of the business of his or her the official’s  
20 public office. The term “employees” also includes members of the General  
21 Assembly as set forth in subdivision (iv) of this subdivision (a)(2)(A).

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

(iv) For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance, the term “employees” includes members of the General Assembly.

(B)(i) The premiums for extending insurance coverage to employees shall be paid in full by the Vermont Historical Society, ~~the Vermont Film Corporation,~~ the Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont Council on the Arts, or their respective retirees. Nothing herein creates a legal obligation on the part of the State of Vermont to pay any portion of the premiums required to extend insurance coverage to this group of employees.

(ii) The General Assembly shall pay 80 percent of the cost of the premium for a single plan for members of the General Assembly who elect to enroll in hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance pursuant to this section. The member shall be responsible for the remaining 20 percent of the cost of the premium for a single plan and shall be fully responsible for any additional premium amounts if the member elects to include coverage for one or more of the member’s dependents under the plan.

\* \* \*

(9) The amount of life insurance for any retired employee shall be reduced and limited to ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$15,000.00 on the date of ~~his or her~~ the employee’s retirement. The provisions of this section shall apply to all retirees

1 who complete 20 creditable years of service with the State before their  
2 retirement and are insured for group life insurance on their retirement dates.  
3 The total premiums for group life insurance provided under this section and  
4 section 632 of this title shall be paid by the State on behalf of employees  
5 retired in accordance with the terms of subdivision (2) of this subsection, on  
6 behalf of employees who are on sick leave without pay for a period not to  
7 exceed 12 months, and on behalf of any employee on disability retirement until  
8 proof of total and permanent disability has been accepted by the insurance  
9 company.

10 (10) Members of the General Assembly shall be eligible for life  
11 insurance in the amount of \$15,000.00 during their term or terms in office.  
12 The General Assembly shall pay 75 percent of the cost of the premium for the  
13 coverage and the member shall be responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

14 \* \* \*

15 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 1052 is amended to read:

16 § 1052. MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; COMPENSATION  
17 AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

18 (a) Compensation.

19 (1) Session compensation. Each member of the General Assembly,  
20 other than the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the  
21 Senate, is entitled to a weekly salary of \$589.00 for the 2005 Biennial Session

1 and thereafter, provided that, beginning on January 1, 2007, the weekly  
2 compensation shall be adjusted annually thereafter by the cost of living  
3 adjustment negotiated for State employees under the most recent collective  
4 bargaining agreement, except that, beginning on July 1, 2021 and annually  
5 thereafter on January 1, the weekly compensation shall be adjusted consistent  
6 with the compensation increases provided to other constitutional officers. The  
7 salary of members shall be paid in biweekly installments.

8 (2) Special session compensation. During a special session, a member is  
9 entitled to an amount equal to one-fifth of the annually adjusted weekly  
10 compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, rounded up to the  
11 nearest dollar, for each day of a special session ~~on which the House of which~~  
12 ~~he or she is a~~ that the House in which the member serves shall sit.

13 (3) Adjournment compensation. During adjournment of the General  
14 Assembly, a member is entitled to an amount equal to one-tenth of the  
15 annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in subdivision (1) of this  
16 subsection (a), rounded up to the nearest dollar, for each week of the  
17 adjournment of the General Assembly.

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.