

As Reported by the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

Am. S. B. No. 299

Senator Schaffer

A BILL

To amend section 505.60 of the Revised Code to 1
expand the category of township employees who 2
are considered part-time for purposes of health 3
coverage and to declare an emergency. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 505.60 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 505.60. (A) As provided in this section and section 7
505.601 of the Revised Code, the board of township trustees of 8
any township may procure and pay all or any part of the cost of 9
insurance policies that may provide benefits for 10
hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, 11
dental care, eye care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription 12
drugs, or sickness and accident insurance, or a combination of 13
any of the foregoing types of insurance for township officers 14
and employees. The board of township trustees of any township 15
may negotiate and contract for the purchase of a policy of long- 16
term care insurance for township officers and employees pursuant 17
to section 124.841 of the Revised Code. 18

If the board procures any insurance policies under this 19
section, the board shall provide uniform coverage under these 20

policies for township officers and full-time township employees 21
and their immediate dependents, and may provide coverage under 22
these policies for part-time township employees and their 23
immediate dependents, from the funds or budgets from which the 24
officers or employees are compensated for services, such 25
policies to be issued by an insurance company duly authorized to 26
do business in this state. 27

(B) The board may also provide coverage for any or all of 28
the benefits described in division (A) of this section by 29
entering into a contract for group health care services with 30
health insuring corporations holding certificates of authority 31
under Chapter 1751. of the Revised Code for township officers 32
and employees and their immediate dependents. If the board so 33
contracts, it shall provide uniform coverage under any such 34
contracts for township officers and full-time township employees 35
and their immediate dependents, from the funds or budgets from 36
which the officers or employees are compensated for services, 37
and may provide coverage under such contracts for part-time 38
township employees and their immediate dependents, from the 39
funds or budgets from which the officers or employees are 40
compensated for services, provided that each officer and 41
employee so covered is permitted to: 42

(1) Choose between a plan offered by an insurance company 43
and a plan offered by a health insuring corporation, and 44
provided further that the officer or employee pays any amount by 45
which the cost of the plan chosen exceeds the cost of the plan 46
offered by the board under this section; 47

(2) Change the choice made under this division at a time 48
each year as determined in advance by the board. 49

An addition of a class or change of definition of coverage 50

to the plan offered under this division by the board may be made 51
at any time that it is determined by the board to be in the best 52
interest of the township. If the total cost to the township of 53
the revised plan for any trustee's coverage does not exceed that 54
cost under the plan in effect during the prior policy year, the 55
revision of the plan does not cause an increase in that 56
trustee's compensation. 57

(C) Any township officer or employee may refuse to accept 58
any coverage authorized by this section without affecting the 59
availability of such coverage to other township officers and 60
employees. 61

(D) If any township officer or employee is denied coverage 62
under a health care plan procured under this section or if any 63
township officer or employee elects not to participate in the 64
township's health care plan, the township may reimburse the 65
officer or employee for each out-of-pocket premium attributable 66
to the coverage provided for the officer or employee and their 67
immediate dependents for insurance benefits described in 68
division (A) of this section that the officer or employee 69
otherwise obtains, but not to exceed an amount equal to the 70
average premium paid by the township for its officers and 71
employees under any health care plan it procures under this 72
section. 73

(E) The board may provide the benefits authorized under 74
this section, without competitive bidding, by contributing to a 75
health and welfare trust fund administered through or in 76
conjunction with a collective bargaining representative of the 77
township employees. 78

The board may also provide the benefits described in this 79
section through an individual self-insurance program or a joint 80

self-insurance program as provided in section 9.833 of the Revised Code.

(F) If a board of township trustees fails to pay one or more premiums for a policy, contract, or plan of insurance or health care services authorized under this section and the failure causes a lapse, cancellation, or other termination of coverage under the policy, contract, or plan, it may reimburse a township officer or employee for, or pay on behalf of the officer or employee, any expenses incurred that would have been covered under the policy, contract, or plan.

(G) As used in this section and section 505.601 of the Revised Code:

(1) "Applicable large employer" has the same meaning as in section 1513 of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," 26 U.S.C. 4980H.

(2) "Part-time township employee" means ~~either of the~~ following:

(a) A township employee who is employed by a township that does not qualify as an applicable large employer and who is hired with the expectation that the employee will work not more than one thousand ~~five-nine~~ hundred seventy-six hours in any year;

(b) A township employee who is employed by a township that qualifies as an applicable large employer and who is hired with the expectation that the employee will work less than one thousand five hundred sixty hours in any year.

~~(2)~~ (3) "Premium" does not include any deductible or health care costs paid directly by a township officer or employee.

Section 2. That existing section 505.60 of the Revised 109
Code is hereby repealed. 110

Section 3. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 111
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 112
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 113
ensure that townships can maintain adequate staffing with part- 114
time employees. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate 115
effect. 116