

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 169**

**Representative Merrin**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Faber, Scherer, Keller, Becker, Brinkman, Riedel,  
Dean, Zeltwanger, Vitale, Goodman, Henne, Roegner, Butler, Hood, Brenner**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 124.81 and to enact section 1  
124.824 of the Revised Code to require, with 2  
respect to insurance contracted for or provided 3  
by the Department of Administrative Services, an 4  
individual who is not covered by a collective 5  
bargaining agreement to pay the same percentage 6  
of the premium for vision, dental, or life 7  
insurance as the individual pays for health 8  
insurance. 9

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

**Section 1.** That section 124.81 be amended and section 10  
124.824 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 11

**Sec. 124.81.** (A) Except as provided in division (F) of 12  
this section, the department of administrative services in 13  
consultation with the superintendent of insurance shall 14  
negotiate with and, in accordance with the competitive selection 15  
procedures of Chapter 125. of the Revised Code, contract with 16  
one or more insurance companies authorized to do business in 17  
this state, for the issuance of one of the following: 18

(1) A policy of group life insurance covering all state 19  
employees who are paid directly by warrant of the state auditor, 20  
including elected state officials; 21

(2) A combined policy, or coordinated policies of one or 22  
more insurance companies or health insuring corporations in 23  
combination with one or more insurance companies providing group 24  
life and health, medical, hospital, dental, or surgical 25  
insurance, or any combination thereof, covering all such 26  
employees; 27

(3) A policy that may include, but is not limited to, 28  
hospitalization, surgical, major medical, dental, vision, and 29  
medical care, disability, hearing aids, prescription drugs, 30  
group life, life, sickness, and accident insurance, group legal 31  
services, or a combination of the above benefits for some or all 32  
of the employees paid in accordance with section 124.152 of the 33  
Revised Code and for some or all of the employees listed in 34  
divisions (B) (2) and (4) of section 124.14 of the Revised Code, 35  
and their immediate dependents. 36

(B) The department of administrative services in 37  
consultation with the superintendent of insurance shall 38  
negotiate with and, in accordance with the competitive selection 39  
procedures of Chapter 125. of the Revised Code, contract with 40  
one or more insurance companies authorized to do business in 41  
this state, for the issuance of a policy of group life insurance 42  
covering all municipal and county court judges. The amount of 43  
such coverage shall be an amount equal to the aggregate salary 44  
set forth for each municipal court judge in sections 141.04 and 45  
1901.11 of the Revised Code, and set forth for each county court 46  
judge in sections 141.04 and 1907.16 of the Revised Code. 47

(C) ~~If~~ Notwithstanding section 124.824 of the Revised 48

Code, if a state employee uses all accumulated sick leave and 49  
then goes on an extended medical disability, the policyholder 50  
shall continue at no cost to the employee the coverage of the 51  
group life insurance for such employee for the period of such 52  
extended leave, but not beyond three years. 53

(D) If a state employee insured under a group life 54  
insurance policy as provided in division (A) of this section is 55  
laid off pursuant to section 124.32 of the Revised Code, such 56  
employee by request to the policyholder, made no later than the 57  
effective date of the layoff, may elect to continue the 58  
employee's group life insurance for the one-year period through 59  
which the employee may be considered to be on laid-off status by 60  
paying the policyholder through payroll deduction or otherwise 61  
twelve times the monthly premium computed at the existing 62  
average rate for the group life case for the amount of the 63  
employee's insurance thereunder at the time of the employee's 64  
layoff. The policyholder shall pay the premiums to the insurance 65  
company at the time of the next regular monthly premium payment 66  
for the actively insured employees and furnish the company 67  
appropriate data as to such laid-off employees. At the time an 68  
employee receives written notice of a layoff, the policyholder 69  
shall also give such employee written notice of the opportunity 70  
to continue group life insurance in accordance with this 71  
division. When such laid-off employee is reinstated for active 72  
work before the end of the one-year period, the employee shall 73  
be reclassified as insured again as an active employee under the 74  
group and appropriate refunds for the number of full months of 75  
unearned premium payment shall be made by the policyholder. 76

(E) This section does not affect the conversion rights of 77  
an insured employee when the employee's group insurance 78  
terminates under the policy. 79

(F) Notwithstanding division (A) of this section, the department may provide benefits equivalent to those that may be paid under a policy issued by an insurance company, or the department may, to comply with a collectively bargained contract, enter into an agreement with a jointly administered trust fund which receives contributions pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement entered into between this state, or any of its political subdivisions, and any collective bargaining representative of the employees of this state or any political subdivision for the purpose of providing for self-insurance of all risk in the provision of fringe benefits similar to those that may be paid pursuant to division (A) of this section, and the jointly administered trust fund may provide through the self-insurance method specific fringe benefits as authorized by the rules of the board of trustees of the jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and that are necessary to administer this section. Benefits provided under this section include, but are not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal services, or a combination of the above benefits, for the employees and their immediate dependents.

(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Revised Code, any public employer, including the state, and any of its political subdivisions, including, but not limited to, any county, county hospital, municipal corporation, township, park district, school district, state institution of higher education, public or special district, state agency, authority,

commission, or board, or any other branch of public employment, 111  
and any collective bargaining representative of employees of the 112  
state or any political subdivision may agree in a collective 113  
bargaining agreement that any mutually agreed fringe benefit 114  
including, but not limited to, hospitalization, surgical care, 115  
major medical care, disability, dental care, vision care, 116  
medical care, hearing aids, prescription drugs, group life 117  
insurance, sickness and accident insurance, group legal 118  
services, or a combination thereof, for employees and their 119  
dependents be provided through a mutually agreed upon 120  
contribution to a jointly administered trust fund. Amounts from 121  
the fund may be used to pay direct and indirect costs that are 122  
attributable to consultants or a third-party administrator and 123  
that are necessary to administer this section. The amount, type, 124  
and structure of fringe benefits provided under this division is 125  
subject to the determination of the board of trustees of the 126  
jointly administered trust fund. Notwithstanding any other 127  
provision of the Revised Code, competitive bidding does not 128  
apply to the purchase of fringe benefits for employees under 129  
this division through a jointly administered trust fund. 130

Sec. 124.824. (A) An individual who is not covered by a 131  
collective bargaining agreement and who receives vision, dental, 132  
or life insurance contracted for or provided by the department 133  
of administrative services shall pay a percentage of the premium 134  
or percentage of the cost of coverage for any of those types of 135  
insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or 136  
percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is 137  
required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided 138  
by the department. 139

(B) Pursuant to Section 20 of Article II, Ohio 140  
Constitution, if a change in the percentage of the premium or 141

percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or life 142  
insurance under division (A) of this section occurs during an 143  
individual's term of office, that change does not apply to the 144  
individual until the individual's next term of office that 145  
begins after the date the change occurs. 146

(C) In negotiating a collective bargaining agreement under 147  
Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code, the entity or individual who 148  
negotiates on behalf of a state agency, department, board, or 149  
commission shall seek to obtain a provision in the agreement 150  
that requires an individual to pay a percentage of the premium 151  
or percentage of the cost of coverage for vision, dental, or 152  
life insurance that is equal to the percentage of the premium or 153  
percentage of the cost of coverage that the individual is 154  
required to pay for health insurance contracted for or provided 155  
by the department. 156

**Section 2.** That existing section 124.81 of the Revised 157  
Code is hereby repealed. 158