

**As Passed by the Senate**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**Am. S. B. No. 299**

**Senator Schaffer**

**Cosponsors: Senators Reineke, Cirino, Lang**

**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 81  
Revised Code. 82

(F) If a board of township trustees fails to pay one or 83  
more premiums for a policy, contract, or plan of insurance or 84  
health care services authorized under this section and the 85  
failure causes a lapse, cancellation, or other termination of 86  
coverage under the policy, contract, or plan, it may reimburse a 87  
township officer or employee for, or pay on behalf of the 88  
officer or employee, any expenses incurred that would have been 89  
covered under the policy, contract, or plan. 90

(G) As used in this section and section 505.601 of the 91  
Revised Code: 92

(1) "Applicable large employer" has the same meaning as in 93  
section 1513 of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care 94  
Act," 26 U.S.C. 4980H. 95

(2) "Part-time township employee" means ~~either of the~~ 96  
following: 97

(a) A township employee who is employed by a township that 98  
does not qualify as an applicable large employer and who is 99  
hired with the expectation that the employee will work not more 100  
than one thousand ~~five-nine~~ hundred seventy-six hours in any 101  
year; 102

(b) A township employee who is employed by a township that 103  
qualifies as an applicable large employer and who is hired with 104  
the expectation that the employee will work less than one 105  
thousand five hundred sixty hours in any year. 106

~~(2)~~ (3) "Premium" does not include any deductible or health 107  
care costs paid directly by a township officer or employee. 108

**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