

**VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
PERSONNEL INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- expands eligibility for the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program (program);
- allows the program to offer dental benefits, life insurance benefits, and disability insurance benefits;
- renames the program; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**49-20-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 328

**53-2d-703**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16 and renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

27 Section 1. Section **49-20-201** is amended to read:

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**Part 2. Membership Eligibility**

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**49-20-201 . Program participation -- Eligibility -- Optional for certain groups.**

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(1) (a) The state shall participate in the program on behalf of the state's employees.

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(b) Other employers, including political subdivisions and educational institutions, are eligible, but are not required, to participate in the program on behalf of their employees.

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(2) (a) As provided in Subsection 26B-3-908(5), the Department of Health and Human Services may participate in the program for the purpose of providing health and dental benefits to children enrolled in the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program created in Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program.

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(b) If the Department of Health and Human Services participates in the program under the provisions of this Subsection (2), all insurance risk associated with the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program shall be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services and not the program or the office.

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(3) Volunteer emergency medical service personnel are eligible to participate in the program in accordance with Section ~~[26B-4-136]~~ 53-2d-703.

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(4) A covered individual shall be eligible for coverage after termination of employment under rules adopted by the board.

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(5) Only the following are eligible for Medicare supplement coverage under this chapter upon becoming eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B coverage:

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(a) retirees;

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(b) members;

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(c) participants;

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(d) employees who have medical employee benefit plan coverage at the time of their retirement; and

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(e) current spouses of those who are eligible under Subsections (5)(a) through (d).

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Section 2. Section **53-2d-703** is amended to read:

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**53-2d-703 . Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance**

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**Program -- Creation -- Administration -- Eligibility -- Benefits -- Rulemaking --**

57

**Advisory board.**

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(1) As used in this section:

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(a) "Basic life insurance benefit" means the standard group life insurance benefit offered

- 60 by PEHP that combines basic life, line-of-duty, accidental death and disability, and  
61 dependent coverage into one benefit package.
- 62 (b) "Basic long-term disability benefit" means a \$1,000 monthly benefit arising from a  
63 disability determined in accordance with Title 49, Chapter 21, Public Employee's  
64 Long-term Disability Act and excluding any coverage offered on a pilot basis.
- 65 (c) "Dental plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-22-646.
- 66 (d) "Health benefit plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section 31A-1-301.
- 67 ~~(b)~~ (e) "Local government entity" means a political subdivision that:
- 68 (i) is licensed as a ground ambulance provider under Part 5, Ambulance and  
69 Paramedic Providers; and
- 70 (ii) as of January 1, 2022, does not offer health insurance benefits to volunteer  
71 emergency medical service personnel.
- 72 ~~(e)~~ (f) "PEHP" means the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program created in  
73 Section 49-20-103.
- 74 ~~(d)~~ (g) "Political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a limited purpose  
75 government entity described in Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government  
76 Entities - Special Districts, or Title 17D, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities  
77 - Other Entities, or an entity created by an interlocal agreement under Title 11,  
78 Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.
- 79 ~~(e)~~ (h) "Qualifying association" means an association that represents two or more  
80 political subdivisions in the state.
- 81 (i) "Qualifying community" means a city or community that:
- 82 (i) has a population less than or equal to 3,000; and
- 83 (ii) is located within a county of the second class.
- 84 (2) The Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel~~[Health]~~ Insurance Program shall  
85 promote recruitment and retention of volunteer emergency medical service personnel by  
86 making~~[health]~~ insurance available to volunteer emergency medical service personnel  
87 in accordance with this section.
- 88 (3) (a) The bureau shall contract with a qualifying association to create, implement, and  
89 administer the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel~~[Health]~~ Insurance  
90 Program described in this section.
- 91 (b) The qualifying association will create promotional campaigns for the Volunteer  
92 Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program and volunteer emergency  
93 medical service recruitment and retention including outreach to local government

94 entities through social media, video production, and other media platforms.

95 (4) Participation in the program is limited to ~~[emergency medical service personnel]~~ any  
96 individual who:

97 (a) ~~[are]~~ is licensed under Section 53-2d-402 ~~[and]~~ as an emergency medical technician,  
98 an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic;

99 (b) ~~[are]~~ is able to perform all necessary functions associated with the license;

100 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) ~~[provide]~~ provides emergency medical services under the direction of a local  
101 governmental entity:

102 (i) by responding to 20% of calls for emergency medical services in a rolling  
103 twelve-month period; and

104 (ii) within a qualifying community or a county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class  
105 by responding to the number of calls described in Subsection (4)(c)(i); and

106 (iii) (A) as a volunteer under the Fair Labor Standards Act, in accordance with 29  
107 C.F.R. Sec. 553.106; or

108 (B) as a part-time unbenefited employee, as classified by the employing local  
109 government entity;

110 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) if seeking health insurance:

111 (i) (A) ~~[are]~~ is not eligible for a health benefit plan through an employer or a  
112 spouse's employer; and

113 ~~[(d)]~~ (B) ~~[are]~~ is not eligible for medical coverage under a government sponsored  
114 healthcare program; ~~[and]~~ or

115 (ii) the individual's premium cost for individual, double, or family coverage through  
116 another source exceeds 20% or greater of the premium cost of the program created  
117 by this section;

118 (e) if seeking dental insurance:

119 (i) (A) is not eligible for a dental plan through an employer or a spouse's  
120 employer; and

121 (B) is not eligible for dental coverage under a government sponsored healthcare  
122 program; or

123 (ii) the individual's premium cost for individual, double, or family coverage exceeds  
124 20% or greater of the premium cost of the program created by this section; and

125 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) ~~[reside]~~ resides in the state.

126 (5) (a) A participant in the program is eligible to participate in PEHP in accordance with  
127 Subsection (5)(b) and Subsection 49-20-201(3).

- 128 (b) ~~[Benefits]~~ Health and dental benefits available to program participants under PEHP  
129 are limited to health insurance and dental insurance that:
- 130 (i) covers the program participant and the program participant's eligible dependents  
131 on a July 1 plan year;
- 132 (ii) accepts enrollment during an open enrollment period or for a special enrollment  
133 event, including the initial eligibility of a program participant;
- 134 (iii) if the program participant is no longer eligible for benefits, terminates on the last  
135 day of the last month for which the individual is a participant in the Volunteer  
136 Emergency Medical Service Personnel ~~[Health-]~~Insurance Program; and
- 137 (iv) is not subject to continuation rights under state or federal law.
- 138 (c) Within existing appropriations, the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel  
139 Insurance Program may offer basic life insurance and long-term disability insurance  
140 to participants to enhance recruitment and retention efforts.
- 141 (6) (a) The bureau may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
142 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to define additional criteria regarding benefit design,  
143 ~~[and-]~~eligibility for the program~~[-]~~ , and to implement this section.
- 144 (b) The bureau shall convene an advisory board:
- 145 (i) to advise the bureau on making rules under Subsection (6)(a); and
- 146 (ii) that includes representation from at least the following entities:
- 147 (A) the qualifying association that receives the contract under Subsection (3); and
- 148 (B) PEHP.
- 149 (7) For purposes of this section, the qualifying association that receives the contract under  
150 Subsection (3) shall be considered the public agency for whom the program participant  
151 is volunteering under 29 C.F.R. Sec. 553.101.
- 152 Section 3. **Effective date.**
- 153 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.