

SENATE FILE NO. SF0008

Health insurance for volunteer emergency responders.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim  
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to compensation and benefits; authorizing  
2 volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical  
3 technicians and volunteer search and rescue persons to  
4 participate in the state employees' and officials' group  
5 insurance plan as specified; making conforming amendments;  
6 requiring rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-3-220 is created to read:

11

12 **9-3-220. Volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency**  
13 **medical technicians and volunteer search and rescue persons**  
14 **participation in the state employees' and officials' group**  
15 **insurance plan; requirements.**

1

2           (a) Volunteer firefighters, emergency medical  
3 technicians and volunteer search and rescue persons may  
4 elect to participate in the state employees' and officials'  
5 group insurance plan as defined by W.S. 9-3-203(a)(v) and  
6 implemented under W.S. 9-3-202 through 9-3-219. These  
7 volunteers are eligible to enroll in the group insurance  
8 plan within the first thirty-one (31) days of the enactment  
9 of this section or after initially volunteering for ninety  
10 (90) days. After the ninety (90) day period is over, the  
11 volunteer shall have thirty-one (31) days to enroll in the  
12 group insurance plan. Eligible volunteers who elect not to  
13 become enrolled within the time prescribed in this  
14 subsection may be enrolled at a later date upon conditions  
15 the department may impose. Continued participation in the  
16 program is limited to a volunteer who:

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18           (i) May or may not receive compensation for  
19 services rendered as a volunteer firefighter, volunteer  
20 emergency medical technician or volunteer search and rescue  
21 person and who:

22

1                   (A) Is carried on the regular rolls of a  
2 volunteer fire department as defined by W.S.  
3 35-9-616(a)(ix), meets the definition of a volunteer  
4 emergency medical technician as defined by W.S.  
5 35-9-616(a)(viii) or meets the definition of a volunteer  
6 search and rescue person as defined by W.S.  
7 35-9-616(a)(xiii);

8  
9                   (B) During the course of one (1) year,  
10 attends not less than fifty percent (50%) of the monthly  
11 volunteer meetings if the person is a volunteer  
12 firefighter; and

13  
14                   (C) During the course of one (1) year,  
15 responds to not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of  
16 calls for services.

17  
18                   (ii) Is not eligible for health insurance  
19 coverage under a government sponsored health care program;  
20 and

21  
22                   (iii) Resides in the state.

23

1           (b) Volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency  
2 medical technicians and volunteer search and rescue persons  
3 participating in the state employees' and officials' group  
4 insurance plan shall pay their group insurance premiums in  
5 their entirety and shall not benefit from employer  
6 contributions to cover a portion of the cost of their  
7 premiums. Volunteers shall submit their monthly premiums to  
8 the department. The procedure for submittal of premiums  
9 shall be established by the department.

10

11           (c) Volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency  
12 medical technicians and volunteer search and rescue  
13 persons participating in the state employees' and  
14 officials' group insurance plan shall submit monthly  
15 verification of their continued volunteer status to the  
16 department. The verification shall be reviewed and signed  
17 by their supervisor.

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19           **Section 2.** W.S. 9-3-203(a)(iv) and (xvii),  
20 9-3-207(b), 9-3-210(a) and 9-3-211(a) are amended to read:

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22           **9-3-203. Definitions.**

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1 (a) As used in this act:

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3 (iv) "Employee" means any employee of a  
4 participating school district or participating board of  
5 cooperative educational services whose salary is paid by  
6 funds of the district or board, a volunteer firefighter,  
7 volunteer emergency medical technician or a volunteer  
8 search and rescue person as provided by W.S. 9-3-220 or any  
9 official or employee of the state of Wyoming whose salary  
10 is paid by state funds, including employees and faculty  
11 members of the University of Wyoming and various community  
12 colleges in the state, except persons employed on  
13 intermittent, irregular, or less than halftime basis and  
14 any at-will contract employee who does not meet the  
15 requirements established under W.S. 9-2-3207(a)(xi)(F)(III)  
16 or (IV). "Employee" shall not include employees of the  
17 agricultural extension service of the University of Wyoming  
18 who hold federal civil service appointments, are required  
19 to participate in federal civil service retirement and who  
20 elect to participate in the federal employees' health  
21 benefit program as authorized in W.S. 9-3-210(d);

22

1           (xvii) "This act" means W.S. 9-3-202 through  
2 ~~9-3-219~~ 9-3-220.

3

4           9-3-207. Eligibility for membership in plan; state  
5 employees; thirty-one (31) day period to elect enrollment;  
6 new employees; later enrollment.

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8           (b) An eligible employee who enters state service,  
9 enters service as a volunteer firefighter, volunteer  
10 emergency medical technician or volunteer search and rescue  
11 person or enters service of a voluntary participating  
12 employer has thirty-one (31) days from the initial date of  
13 employment or ninety (90) days from the initial date of  
14 becoming a volunteer firefighter, volunteer emergency  
15 medical technician or volunteer search and rescue person as  
16 provided by W.S. 9-3-220 to elect to be enrolled or not be  
17 enrolled in the group insurance plan. A person who enters  
18 service as a volunteer firefighter, volunteer emergency  
19 medical technician or volunteer search and rescue person  
20 shall volunteer for ninety (90) days before becoming  
21 eligible for coverage under the group insurance plan. After  
22 the ninety (90) day period is over, a volunteer shall have

1 thirty-one (31) days to elect to be enrolled or not be  
2 enrolled in the group insurance plan.

3

4 **9-3-210. Amount of state's contribution; estimates**  
5 **submitted to state budget officer; specified employees**  
6 **participation in federal program; participating employers**  
7 **contributions.**

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9 (a) Except for voluntary participating employers,  
10 volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical  
11 technicians and volunteer search and rescue persons under  
12 W.S. 9-3-220, the state shall contribute monthly the amount  
13 established and appropriated by the legislature for each  
14 employee and official enrolled in the plan in accordance  
15 with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

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17 **9-3-211. Deductions from salaries of monthly**  
18 **contributions by employees and officials; establishment of**  
19 **procedure.**

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21 (a) The amount of monthly contribution to be made by  
22 eligible employees and officials, excluding volunteer  
23 firefighters, volunteer emergency medical technicians and

1 volunteer search and rescue persons under W.S. 9-3-220,  
2 enrolled in the group insurance plan for themselves and  
3 their dependents shall be deducted from the monthly  
4 salaries of the employees and officials by the various  
5 agencies or voluntary participating employers and remitted  
6 to the department. The procedure for deductions and  
7 remittances shall be established by the department. If a  
8 flexible benefits plan is chosen, the employees' and  
9 officials' contribution shall be applied to the chosen  
10 benefits in an amount determined by the employee or  
11 official.

12

13 **Section 3.** The department of administration and  
14 information shall promulgate all rules necessary to  
15 implement this act.

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1           **Section 4.**

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3           (a) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of  
4 this section, this act is effective July 1, 2024.

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6           (b) Sections 3 and 4 of this act are effective  
7 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
8 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
9 the Wyoming Constitution.

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(END)