

service retirement or a disability or survivor benefit, the individual shall, by written authorization, instruct the board to deduct the premium agreed to be paid by the individual to the company, corporation, or agency.

The board may contract for coverage on the basis of part or all of the cost of the coverage to be paid from appropriate funds of the public employees retirement system. The cost paid from the funds of the system shall be included in the employer's contribution rate provided by sections 145.48 and 145.51 of the Revised Code. The board may by rule provide coverage to individuals who are not eligible under the rules adopted under division (A) of this section if the coverage is provided at no cost to the retirement system. The board shall not pay or reimburse the cost for coverage under this section or section 145.584 of the Revised Code for any such individual.

The board may provide for self-insurance of risk or level of risk as set forth in the contract with the companies, corporations, or agencies, and may provide through the self-insurance method specific ~~benefits~~ coverage as authorized by rules of the board.

(C) The board shall, beginning the month following receipt of satisfactory evidence of the payment for coverage, pay monthly to each recipient of service retirement, or a disability or survivor benefit under the public employees retirement system who is eligible for coverage under part B of the medicare program established under Title XVIII of "The Social Security Act Amendments of 1965," 79 Stat. 301 (1965), 42 U.S.C.A. 1395j, as amended, an amount determined by the board for such coverage, except that the board shall make no such payment to any individual who is not eligible for coverage under the rules adopted under division (A) of this section or pay an amount that exceeds the amount paid by the recipient for the coverage.

At the request of the board, the recipient shall certify to the retirement system the amount paid by the recipient for coverage described in this division.

(D) The board shall establish by rule requirements for the coordination of any coverage; or payment; ~~or benefit~~ provided under this section or section 145.584 of the Revised Code with any similar coverage; or payment; ~~or benefit~~ made available to the same individual by the Ohio police and fire pension fund, state teachers retirement system, school employees retirement system, or state highway patrol retirement system.

(E) The board shall make all other necessary rules pursuant to the purpose and intent of this section.

Sec. 145.581. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Long-term care insurance" has the same meaning as in section 3923.41 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Retirement systems" means the public employees retirement system, the Ohio police and fire pension fund, the state teachers retirement system, the school employees retirement system, and the state highway patrol retirement system.

(B) The public employees retirement board ~~shall~~ may establish a long-term care insurance program consisting of the programs authorized by divisions (C) and (D) of this section. Such program may be established independently or jointly with one or more of the other retirement systems. If the program is established jointly, the board shall adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code to establish the terms and conditions of such joint participation.

(C) The board ~~shall~~ may establish a program under which it makes long-term care insurance available to any person who participated in a policy of long-term care insurance for which the state or a political subdivision contracted under section 124.84 or 124.841 of the Revised Code and is the recipient of a pension, benefit, or allowance from the system. To implement the program under this division, the board, subject to division (E) of this section, may enter into an agreement with the insurance company, health insuring corporation, or government agency that provided the insurance. The board shall, under any such agreement, deduct the full premium charged from the person's benefit, pension, or allowance notwithstanding any employer agreement to the contrary.

Any long-term care insurance policy entered into under this division is subject to division (C) of section 124.84 of the Revised Code.

(D)(1) The board, subject to division (E) of this section, ~~shall~~ may establish a program under which a recipient of a pension, benefit, or allowance from the system who is not eligible for such insurance under division (C) of this section may participate in a contract for long-term care insurance. Participation may include the recipient's dependents and family members.

(2) The board ~~shall~~ may adopt rules in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code governing the program. ~~The~~ Any rules adopted by the board shall establish methods of payment for participation under this section, which may include deduction of the full premium charged from a recipient's pension, benefit, or allowance, or any other method of payment considered appropriate by the board.

(E) Prior to entering into any agreement or contract with an insurance company or health insuring corporation for the purchase of, or participation

in, a long-term care insurance policy under this section, the board shall request the superintendent of insurance to certify the financial condition of the company or corporation. The board shall not enter into the agreement or contract if, according to that certification, the company or corporation is insolvent, is determined by the superintendent to be potentially unable to fulfill its contractual obligations, or is placed under an order of rehabilitation or conservation by a court of competent jurisdiction or under an order of supervision by the superintendent.

Sec. 145.584. (A) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, the board of the public employees retirement system shall make available to each retirant or disability benefit recipient receiving a monthly allowance or benefit on or after January 1, 1968, who has attained the age of sixty-five years, and who is not eligible to receive hospital insurance benefits under the federal old age, survivors, and disability insurance program without payment of premiums, ~~hospital~~ one of the following:

(1) Hospital insurance coverage substantially equivalent to the federal hospital insurance benefits, Social Security Amendments of 1965, 79 Stat. 291, 42 U.S.C.A. 1395c, as amended;

(2) An amount, determined by the board, to reimburse the retirant or disability benefit recipient for payment of premiums for federal hospital insurance benefits described in this division, which amount shall not exceed the premiums paid. This

This coverage or amount shall also be made available to the spouse, widow, or widower of such retirant or disability benefit recipient provided such spouse, widow, or widower has attained age sixty-five and is not eligible to receive hospital insurance benefits under the federal old age, survivors, and disability insurance program without payment of premiums. The widow or widower of a retirant or disability benefit recipient shall be eligible for such coverage or amount only if he or she is the recipient of a monthly allowance or benefit from this system. A portion of the cost of the premium or amount for the spouse may be paid from the appropriate funds of the ~~public employees retirement~~ system. The remainder of the cost shall be paid by the recipient of the allowance or benefit.

The cost of such coverage or amount, paid from the funds of the system, shall be included in the employer's rate provided by section 145.48 of the Revised Code. The retirement board is authorized to make all necessary rules pursuant to the purpose and intent of this section, and ~~shall~~ may contract for such coverage as provided in section 145.58 of the Revised Code.

At the request of the board, the recipient of reimbursement under this