

Sec. 145.58. (A) The public employees retirement board may enter into agreements with insurance companies, hospital insurance associations, medical or health care corporations, or government agencies authorized to do business in the state for issuance of a policy or contract of health, medical, hospital, or surgical benefits, or any combination thereof, for those persons receiving age and service, disability, or survivor benefits subscribing to the plan.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the policy or contract may also include coverage for any eligible person's spouse and dependent children and for such of his sponsored dependents as the board deems appropriate. If all or any portion of the policy or contract premium is to be paid by any person receiving a service, disability, or survivor benefit, the person shall, by written authorization, instruct the public employees retirement board to deduct from his benefit the premium agreed to be paid by him to the company, association, corporation, or agency.

Effective January 1, 1974, the THE board may contract for such coverage on the basis of part or all of the cost of the premium for the coverage to be paid from appropriate funds of the public employees retirement system. The cost paid from the funds of the public employees retirement 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 provide for self-insurance of risk or level of risk as set forth in the contract with the companies, associations, corporations, or agencies, and may provide through the self-insurance method specific benefits as authorized by rules of the board.

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

(B) On and after January 1, 1977, the board shall upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of the payment for coverage, pay monthly to each recipient of service, disability, or survivor benefits under the public employees retirement system who is eligible for medical insurance coverage under part B of "The Social Security Amendments of 1965 j." 79 Stat. 301, 42 U.S.C.A. 1935j, as amended, an amount equal to the basic premium for such coverage.

Effective August 26, 1977