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Sec. 3307.74. (A) The state teachers retirement board may enter into an agreement with insurance companies, ~~medical or health care~~ INSUR-
ING corporations, ~~health maintenance organizations~~, 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 combina-
tion thereof, for those individuals receiving service retirement or a disabili-
ty or survivor benefit subscribing to the plan. Notwithstanding any other
provision of this chapter, the policy or contract may also include coverage
for any eligible individual's spouse and dependent children and for any of
the individual's sponsored dependents as the board considers appropriate.

If all or any portion of the policy or contract premium is to be paid by any
individual receiving 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 companies, ~~associa-~~
~~tions~~, corporations, or agencies.

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 state teachers
retirement system. The cost paid from the funds of the system shall be
included in the employer's contribution rate provided by section 3307.53 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, corporations, or agencies, and
may provide through the self-insurance method specific benefits as au-
thorized by the rules of the board.

(B) If the board provides health, medical, hospital, or surgical bene-
fits through any means other than a health ~~maintenance organization~~
INSURING CORPORATION, it shall offer to each individual eligible for
the benefits the alternative of receiving benefits through enrollment in a
health ~~maintenance organization~~ INSURING CORPORATION, if all of
the following apply:

(1) The health ~~maintenance organization~~ INSURING CORPORA-
TION provides HEALTH CARE services in the geographical area in
which the individual lives;

(2) The eligible individual was receiving health care benefits through
a health maintenance organization OR A HEALTH INSURING COR-
PORATION before retirement;

(3) The rate and coverage provided by the health ~~maintenance or-~~
~~ganization~~ INSURING CORPORATION to eligible individuals is com-
parable to that currently provided by the board under division (A) of this
section. If the rate or coverage provided by the health ~~maintenance or-~~
~~ganization~~ INSURING CORPORATION is not comparable to that cur-
rently provided by the board under division (A) of this section, the board
may deduct the additional cost from the eligible individual's monthly
benefit.

The health ~~maintenance organization~~ INSURING CORPORATION
shall accept as an enrollee any eligible individual who requests enrollment.

The board shall permit each eligible individual to change from one
plan to another at least once a year at a time determined by the board.

(C) The board shall, beginning the month following receipt of satisfac-
tory evidence of the payment for coverage, make a monthly payment to
each recipient of service retirement, or a disability or survivor benefit
under the state teachers retirement system who is eligible for insurance
coverage under part B of "The Social Security Amendments of 1965," 79
Stat. 301, 42 U.S.C.A. 1395j, as amended. The payment shall be the lesser
of an amount equal to the basic premium for such coverage, or an amount
equal to the basic premium in effect on April 10, 1991.

(D) The board shall establish by rule requirements for the coordina-
tion of any coverage, payment, or benefit provided under this section or
section 3307.405 of the Revised Code with any similar coverage, payment,

or benefit made available to the same individual by the public employees
retirement system, police and firemen's disability and pension fund, 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.