

Sec. 3309.375. ~~The~~ (A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN DIVISION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE board of the school employees retirement system shall make available to each retirant 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, 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. This coverage shall also be made available to the ~~wife, husband~~ SPOUSE, widow, or widower of such retirant provided such ~~wife, husband~~ 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. The widow or widower of a retirant shall be eligible for such coverage only if he or she is the recipient of a monthly allowance or benefit from this system. One-half of the cost of the premium for such coverage shall be paid from the appropriate funds of the school employees retirement system and one-half by the recipient of the allowance or benefit.

The cost of such coverage, paid from the funds of the system, shall be included in the employer's rate provided by sections 3309.49 and 3309.51 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 contract for such coverage as provided in section 3309.69 of the Revised Code.

Notwithstanding sections 3309.49 and 3309.51 of the Revised Code, the employer's contribution rate shall not be increased until July 1, 1969 or later to reflect the increased costs created by this section.

(B) THE BOARD NEED NOT MAKE THE HOSPITAL INSURANCE COVERAGE DESCRIBED IN DIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION AVAILABLE TO ANY PERSON FOR WHOM IT IS PROHIBITED BY SECTION 3309.69 OF THE REVISED CODE FROM PAYING OR REIMBURSING THE PREMIUM COST OF SUCH INSURANCE.

SECTION 4. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity lies in the fact that the benefit increases provided for in the act are to become effective July 1, 1981 and should be included in payments made by PERS and SERS for the month of July. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.

Effective
June 13, 1981
Emergency.