

House Bill 2978

Sponsored by Representative WINGARD (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides option for educator participating in benefit plan contracted for by Oregon Educators Benefit Board to enroll in employee-only benefit plan.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to health insurance; amending ORS 243.866.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 243.866, as amended by section 2, chapter 49, Oregon Laws 2010, is amended
5 to read:

6 243.866. (1) The Oregon Educators Benefit Board shall contract for benefit plans best designed
7 to meet the needs and provide for the welfare of eligible employees and the districts. In considering
8 whether to enter into a contract for a benefit plan, the board shall place emphasis on:

- 9 (a) Employee choice among high-quality plans;
10 (b) Encouragement of a competitive marketplace;
11 (c) Plan performance and information;
12 (d) District flexibility in plan design and contracting;
13 (e) Quality customer service;
14 (f) Creativity and innovation;
15 (g) Plan benefits as part of total employee compensation; and
16 (h) Improvement of employee health.

17 (2) The board may approve more than one carrier for each type of benefit plan offered, but the
18 board shall limit the number of carriers to a number consistent with adequate service to eligible
19 employees and family members.

20 (3) **An eligible employee shall have the option to enroll in a benefit plan that provides**
21 **coverage solely for the employee at the premium rate for a single individual.** When appropri-
22 ate, the board shall provide options under which an eligible employee may arrange coverage for
23 family members under a benefit plan.

24 (4) A district shall provide that payroll deductions for benefit plan costs that are not payable
25 by the district may be made upon receipt of a signed authorization from the employee indicating an
26 election to participate in the benefit plan or plans selected and allowing the deduction of those costs
27 from the employee's pay.

28 (5) In developing any benefit plan, the board may provide an option of additional coverage for
29 eligible employees and family members at an additional premium.

30 (6) The board shall adopt rules providing that transfer of enrollment from one benefit plan to
31 another is open to all eligible employees and family members. Because of the special problems that

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 may arise involving acceptable physician-patient relations between a particular panel of physicians
2 and a particular eligible employee or family member under a comprehensive group practice benefit
3 plan, the board shall provide a procedure under which any eligible employee may apply at any time
4 to substitute another benefit plan for participation in a comprehensive group practice benefit plan.

5 (7) An eligible employee who is retired is not required to participate in a health benefit plan
6 offered under this section in order to obtain dental benefit plan coverage. The board shall establish
7 by rule standards of eligibility for retired employees to participate in a dental benefit plan.

8 (8) The board shall evaluate a benefit plan that serves a limited geographic region of this state
9 according to the criteria described in subsection (1) of this section.

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