

SENATE BILL NO. 471—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing payments from the State Retirees' Health and Welfare Benefits Fund made on behalf of certain retired persons. (BDR 23-1178)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to benefits for public employees; requiring the payment of a subsidy from the State Retirees' Health and Welfare Benefits Fund on behalf of a retired person whose coverage is provided through the federal TRICARE program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law requires the payment of a subsidy from the State Retirees' Health
2 and Welfare Benefits Fund for retirees enrolled in Medicare to pay for certain
3 benefits. (NRS 287.046) This bill also requires the payment of this subsidy for
4 retirees, usually retired military servicepersons, who are enrolled in the federal
5 TRICARE program.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 287.046 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 287.046 1. The Department of Administration shall establish
3 an assessment that is to be used to pay for a portion of the cost of
4 premiums or contributions for the Program for persons who were
5 initially hired before January 1, 2012, and have retired with state
6 service.



2. The money assessed pursuant to subsection 1 must be deposited into the Retirees' Fund and must be based upon a base amount approved by the Legislature each session to pay for a portion of the current and future health and welfare benefits for persons who retired before January 1, 1994, or for persons who retire on or after January 1, 1994, as adjusted by subsection 5.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, the portion to be paid to the Program from the Retirees' Fund on behalf of such persons must be equal to a portion of the cost for each retiree and the retiree's dependents who are enrolled in the plan, as defined for each year of the plan by the Program.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the portion of the amount approved by the Legislature as described in subsection 2 to be paid to the Program from the Retirees' Fund for persons who retired before January 1, 1994, with state service is the base funding level defined for each year of the plan by the Program.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, adjustments to the portion of the amount approved by the Legislature as described in subsection 2 to be paid by the Retirees' Fund for persons who retire on or after January 1, 1994, with state service must be as follows:

(a) For each year of service less than 15 years, excluding service purchased pursuant to NRS 1A.310 or 286.300, the portion paid by the Retirees' Fund must be reduced by an amount equal to 7.5 percent of the base funding level defined by the Legislature. In no event may the adjustment exceed 75 percent of the base funding level defined by the Legislature.

(b) For each year of service greater than 15 years, excluding service purchased pursuant to NRS 1A.310 or 286.300, the portion paid by the Retirees' Fund must be increased by an amount equal to 7.5 percent of the base funding level defined by the Legislature. In no event may the adjustment exceed 37.5 percent of the base funding level defined by the Legislature.

6. The portion to be paid to the Program from the Retirees' Fund on behalf of a retired person whose coverage is provided through *the TRICARE program, as established pursuant to 32 C.F.R. § 199.17, or provided through* the Program by an individual medical plan offered pursuant to the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1395 et seq., must be:

(a) For persons who retired before January 1, 1994, the base funding level defined by the Legislature multiplied by 15.

(b) For persons who retired on or after January 1, 1994, the base funding level defined by the Legislature multiplied by the number of years of service of the person, excluding service purchased pursuant to NRS 1A.310 or 286.300, up to a maximum of 20 years of service.



1 ➡ The Board may approve the payment of an additional amount to
2 retired persons described in this subsection that is in excess of the
3 amount paid pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b), or both, for those
4 persons from any money that is available for that purpose.

5 7. No money may be paid by the Retirees' Fund on behalf of a
6 retired person who is initially hired by the State:

7 (a) On or after January 1, 2010, but before January 1, 2012, and
8 who:

9 (1) Has not participated in the Program on a continuous basis
10 since retirement from such employment; or

11 (2) Does not have at least 15 years of service, which must
12 include state service and may include local governmental service,
13 unless the retired person does not have at least 15 years of service as
14 a result of a disability for which disability benefits are received
15 under the Public Employees' Retirement System or a retirement
16 program for professional employees offered by or through the
17 Nevada System of Higher Education, and has participated in the
18 Program on a continuous basis since retirement from such
19 employment.

20 (b) On or after January 1, 2012. The provisions of this paragraph
21 must not be construed to prohibit a retired person who was hired on
22 or after January 1, 2012, from participating in the Program until the
23 retired person is eligible for coverage under an individual medical
24 plan offered pursuant to the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, 42
25 U.S.C. §§ 1395 et seq. The retired person shall pay the entire
26 premium or contribution for his or her participation in the Program.

27 8. If the amount calculated pursuant to subsection 5 or 6
28 exceeds the actual premium or contribution for the plan of the
29 Program that the retired participant selects, the balance must be
30 credited to the Program Fund.

31 9. For the purposes of this section:

32 (a) Credit for service must be calculated in the manner provided
33 by chapter 286 of NRS.

34 (b) No proration may be made for a partial year of service.

35 10. The Department shall agree through the Board with the
36 insurer for billing of remaining premiums or contributions for
37 the retired participant and the retired participant's dependents to the
38 retired participant and to the retired participant's dependents who
39 elect to continue coverage under the Program after the retired
40 participant's death.

41 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

