

1 H.808

2 Introduced by Representatives Young of Glover, Burditt of West Rutland,

3 Cross of Winooski, Pearson of Burlington, Trieber of

4 Rockingham, and Woodward of Johnson

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Legislature; Executive Branch; health insurance

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide group  
9 health insurance to members of the General Assembly on the same terms as  
10 insurance is available to other State employees.

11 An act relating to health insurance for members of the General Assembly

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

14 § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY

15 DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND

16 CREDIT UNIONS

17 (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State  
18 with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this  
19 State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. Beginning July 1,

1 1978, the terms of coverage under the policy shall be determined under section  
2 904 of this title, but it may include:

3 (A) life, disability, health, and accident insurance and benefits for  
4 any class or classes of State employees; and

5 (B) hospital, surgical, and medical benefits for any class or classes of  
6 State employees or for those employees and any class or classes of their  
7 dependents.

8 (2)(A) The term “employees” as used in this section shall include among  
9 others any class or classes of elected or appointed officials, but it shall not  
10 ~~include members of the General Assembly as such, nor shall it~~ include any  
11 person rendering service on a retainer or fee basis, members of boards or  
12 commissions, or persons other than employees of the Vermont Historical  
13 Society, ~~the Vermont Film Corporation~~, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit  
14 Union, Vermont State Employees’ Association, and the Vermont Council on  
15 the Arts, whose compensation for service is not paid from the State Treasury,  
16 ~~nor shall it.~~ Except for members of the General Assembly, the term  
17 “employees” shall not include any elected or appointed official unless the  
18 official is actively engaged in and devoting substantially full time to the  
19 conduct of the business of his or her public office. For purposes of group  
20 hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance, the term “employees” shall  
21 include members of the General Assembly, employees as defined in this

1 subdivision, and former employees as defined in this subdivision who are  
2 retired and are receiving a retirement allowance from the Vermont State  
3 Retirement System or the State teachers' Retirement System of Vermont and,  
4 for the purposes of group life insurance only, are retired on or after July 1,  
5 1961, and have completed 20 creditable years of service with the State before  
6 their retirement dates and are insured for group life insurance on their  
7 retirement dates. For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense  
8 insurance only, the term "employees" shall include employees as defined in  
9 this subdivision and employees who are receiving a retirement allowance  
10 based upon their employment with the Vermont State Employees' Association,  
11 the Vermont State Employees' Credit Union, the Vermont Council on the Arts,  
12 as long as they are covered as active employees on their retirement date, and:

- 13 (i) they have at least 20 years of service with that employer; or  
14 (ii) have attained 62 years of age, and have at least 15 years  
15 service with that employer.

16 \* \* \*

17 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 635a is amended to read:

18 § 635a. COVERAGE; MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 (a) A member of the ~~general assembly and a session employee of the~~  
20 ~~legislature or the legislative council~~ General Assembly shall be eligible to  
21 participate in the group health insurance program provided in this chapter, or in

1 any group dental insurance program negotiated in a collective bargaining  
2 agreement with ~~state~~ State employees. ~~Premiums shall be paid at the full~~  
3 ~~actuarial rate by the legislator or employee with no contribution from the state~~  
4 ~~and shall be deducted from compensation due for services rendered during the~~  
5 ~~legislative session or assessed and paid directly by the legislator or employee~~  
6 The member's premium contribution shall be the same as applicable to other  
7 State employees and shall be deducted from the member's compensation  
8 during the legislative session or assessed and paid directly by the member.  
9 The State's share shall be allocated pursuant to section 632 of this title.

10 (b) A session employee of the General Assembly or of the Office of  
11 Legislative Council shall be eligible to participate in the group health insurance  
12 program provided in this chapter, or in any group dental insurance program  
13 negotiated in a collective bargaining agreement with State employees.  
14 Premiums shall be paid at the full actuarial rate by the employee with no  
15 contribution from the State and shall be deducted from compensation due for  
16 services rendered during the legislative session or assessed and paid directly by  
17 the employee.

18 (c) A person who elects to participate in the group health insurance  
19 program or in the group dental insurance program under this section shall  
20 notify the program's administrator, in writing, of such election. The

1 enrollment period for persons electing under this section shall correspond with  
2 the enrollment period for ~~state~~ State employees.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.