

1 S.164

2 Introduced by Senator Watson

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislature; health insurance; State employees; State employees'

6 health plan

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make  
8 members of the General Assembly eligible for the same health benefits offered  
9 to State employees.

10 An act relating to health benefits for members of the General Assembly

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

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

13 § 631. GROUP INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES; SALARY

14 DEDUCTIONS FOR INSURANCE, SAVINGS PLANS, AND

15 CREDIT UNIONS

16 (a)(1) The Secretary of Administration may contract on behalf of the State  
17 with any insurance company or nonprofit association doing business in this  
18 State to secure the benefits of franchise or group insurance. The terms of  
19 coverage under the policy shall be determined under section 904 of this title,  
20 but it may include:

\* \* \*

(2)(A)(i) As used in this section, the term “employees” includes any class or classes of elected or appointed officials, State’s Attorneys, sheriffs, employees of State’s Attorneys’ offices whose compensation is administered through the State of Vermont payroll system, except contractual and temporary employees, and deputy sheriffs paid by the State of Vermont pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 290(b). The term “employees” ~~shall~~ does not include ~~members of the General Assembly as such,~~ any person rendering service on a retainer or fee basis, members of boards or commissions, or persons ~~other than employees of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Film Corporation, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, Vermont State Employees’ Association, and the Vermont Council on the Arts,~~ whose compensation for service is not paid from the State Treasury, or any elected or appointed official ~~unless the~~ except as specifically provided pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i). The term “employees” includes employees of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont Council on the Arts, and any elected or appointed official who is actively engaged in and devoting substantially full-time to the conduct of the business of the official’s public office. The term “employees” also includes members of the General Assembly as set forth in subdivision (iv) of this subdivision (a)(2)(A).

\* \* \*

(iv) For purposes of group hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance, any employee assistance program offered to State employees, and any flexible spending account program offered to State employees for health care or dependent care expenses, or both, the term “employees” includes members of the General Assembly.

(B)(i) The premiums for extending insurance coverage to employees shall be paid in full by the Vermont Historical Society, ~~the Vermont Film Corporation,~~ the Vermont State Employees’ Association, the Vermont State Employees’ Credit Union, the Vermont Council on the Arts, or their respective retirees. Nothing herein creates a legal obligation on the part of the State of Vermont to pay any portion of the premiums required to extend insurance coverage to this group of employees.

(ii) Members of the General Assembly shall be required to pay the same portion of the premium for group hospital-surgical-medical expense insurance as is required of employees of the Executive Branch.

\* \* \*

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2027, and shall apply to coverage beginning on and after that date.