

**VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL  
INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens



**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- expands eligibility for the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program (program);
- allows the program to offer dental benefits, life insurance benefits, and disability insurance benefits;
- renames the program; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**49-20-201**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 328



28 **53-2d-703 (Effective 07/01/24)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 16  
29 and renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 307, 310



31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. Section **49-20-201** is amended to read:

33 **Part 2. Membership Eligibility**

34 **49-20-201. Program participation -- Eligibility -- Optional for certain groups.**

35 (1) (a) The state shall participate in the program on behalf of the state's employees.

36 (b) Other employers, including political subdivisions and educational institutions, are  
37 eligible, but are not required, to participate in the program on behalf of their employees.

38 (2) (a) As provided in Subsection **26B-3-908(5)**, the Department of Health and Human  
39 Services may participate in the program for the purpose of providing health and dental benefits  
40 to children enrolled in the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program created in Title 26B,  
41 Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program.

42 (b) If the Department of Health and Human Services participates in the program under  
43 the provisions of this Subsection (2), all insurance risk associated with the Utah Children's  
44 Health Insurance Program shall be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human  
45 Services and not the program or the office.

46 (3) Volunteer emergency medical service personnel are eligible to participate in the  
47 program in accordance with Section [~~26B-4-136~~] **53-2d-703**.

48 (4) A covered individual shall be eligible for coverage after termination of employment  
49 under rules adopted by the board.

50 (5) Only the following are eligible for Medicare supplement coverage under this  
51 chapter upon becoming eligible for Medicare Part A and Part B coverage:

52 (a) retirees;

53 (b) members;

54 (c) participants;

55 (d) employees who have medical employee benefit plan coverage at the time of their  
56 retirement; and

57 (e) current spouses of those who are eligible under Subsections (5)(a) through (d).

58 Section 2. Section **53-2d-703 (Effective 07/01/24)** is amended to read:

59           **53-2d-703 (Effective 07/01/24). Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel**  
60 **Insurance Program -- Creation -- Administration -- Eligibility -- Benefits -- Rulemaking**  
61 **-- Advisory board.**

62           (1) As used in this section:

63           (a) "Basic life insurance benefit" means the standard group life insurance benefit  
64 offered by PEHP that combines basic life, line-of-duty, accidental death and disability, and  
65 dependent coverage into one benefit package.

66           (b) "Basic long-term disability benefit" means a \$1,000 monthly benefit arising from a  
67 disability determined in accordance with Title 49, Chapter 21, Public Employee's Long-term  
68 Disability Act and excluding any coverage offered on a pilot basis.

69           (c) "Dental plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section [31A-22-646](#).

70           (d) "Health benefit plan" means the same as that term is defined in Section [31A-1-301](#).

71           ~~(b)~~ (e) "Local government entity" means a political subdivision that:

72           (i) is licensed as a ground ambulance provider under Part 5, Ambulance and Paramedic  
73 Providers; and

74           (ii) as of January 1, 2022, does not offer health insurance benefits to volunteer  
75 emergency medical service personnel.

76           ~~(c)~~ (f) "PEHP" means the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program created  
77 in Section [49-20-103](#).

78           ~~(d)~~ (g) "Political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a limited purpose  
79 government entity described in Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities -  
80 Special Districts, or Title 17D, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Other Entities, or  
81 an entity created by an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation  
82 Act.

83           ~~(e)~~ (h) "Qualifying association" means an association that represents two or more  
84 political subdivisions in the state.

85           (2) The Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel ~~Health~~ Insurance Program  
86 shall promote recruitment and retention of volunteer emergency medical service personnel by  
87 making ~~health~~ insurance available to volunteer emergency medical service personnel in  
88 accordance with this section.

89           (3) (a) The bureau shall contract with a qualifying association to create, implement, and

90 administer the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel ~~[Health]~~ Insurance Program  
91 described in this section.

92 (b) The qualifying association will create promotional campaigns for the Volunteer  
93 Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program and volunteer emergency medical  
94 service recruitment and retention including outreach to local government entities through social  
95 media, video production, and other media platforms.

96 (4) Participation in the program is limited to ~~[emergency medical service personnel]~~  
97 any individual who:

98 (a) ~~[are]~~ is licensed under Section ~~53-2d-402~~ ~~[and]~~ as an emergency medical  
99 technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic;

100 (b) ~~[are]~~ is able to perform all necessary functions associated with the license;

101 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) ~~[provide]~~ provides emergency medical services under the direction of a local  
102 governmental entity:

103 (i) by responding to ~~[20%]~~ a minimum percentage of calls for emergency medical  
104 services ~~[in a rolling twelve-month period]~~ as determined by the bureau through rule; and

105 (ii) ~~[within a county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class]~~ by responding to the  
106 number of calls described in Subsection (4)(c)(i) during a set period as determined by the  
107 bureau through rule; and

108 (iii) (A) as a volunteer under the Fair Labor Standards Act, in accordance with 29  
109 C.F.R. Sec. 553.106; or

110 (B) as a part-time unbenefited employee, as classified by the employing local  
111 government entity;

112 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) if seeking health insurance:

113 (i) (A) ~~[are]~~ is not eligible for a health benefit plan through an employer or a spouse's  
114 employer; and

115 ~~[(d)]~~ (B) ~~[are]~~ is not eligible for medical coverage under a government sponsored  
116 healthcare program; ~~[and]~~ or

117 (ii) the individual's premium cost share for individual, double, or family coverage  
118 through another source exceeds a dollar threshold for affordability as established by the bureau  
119 through rule;

120 (e) if seeking dental insurance:

121 (i) (A) is not eligible for a dental plan through an employer or a spouse's employer; and  
 122 (B) is not eligible for dental coverage under a government sponsored healthcare  
 123 program; or

124 (ii) the individual's premium cost share for individual, double, or family coverage  
 125 exceeds a dollar threshold for affordability as established by the bureau through rule;

126 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) [reside] resides in the state[-]; and

127 (g) meets additional criteria as determined by the bureau through rule.

128 (5) (a) A participant in the program is eligible to participate in PEHP in accordance  
 129 with Subsection (5)(b) and Subsection 49-20-201(3).

130 (b) ~~[Benefits]~~ Health and dental benefits available to program participants under PEHP  
 131 are limited to health insurance and dental insurance that:

132 (i) covers the program participant and the program participant's eligible dependents on  
 133 a July 1 plan year;

134 (ii) accepts enrollment during an open enrollment period or for a special enrollment  
 135 event, including the initial eligibility of a program participant;

136 (iii) if the program participant is no longer eligible for benefits, terminates on the last  
 137 day of the last month for which the individual is a participant in the Volunteer Emergency  
 138 Medical Service Personnel ~~[Health]~~ Insurance Program; and

139 (iv) is not subject to continuation rights under state or federal law.

140 (c) Within existing appropriations, the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service  
 141 Personnel Insurance Program may offer basic life insurance and long-term disability insurance  
 142 to participants to enhance recruitment and retention efforts.

143 (6) (a) The bureau may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
 144 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to define additional criteria regarding benefit design, ~~[and]~~  
 145 eligibility for the program[-], and to implement this section.

146 (b) The bureau shall convene an advisory board:

147 (i) to advise the bureau on making rules under Subsection (6)(a); and

148 (ii) that includes representation from at least the following entities:

149 (A) the qualifying association that receives the contract under Subsection (3); and

150 (B) PEHP.

151 (7) For purposes of this section, the qualifying association that receives the contract

152 under Subsection (3) shall be considered the public agency for whom the program participant is  
153 volunteering under 29 C.F.R. Sec. 553.101.

154 Section 3. **Effective date.**

155 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.