

## HB0217S01 compared with HB0217

{deleted text} shows text that was in HB0217 but was deleted in HB0217S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0217 but was inserted into HB0217S01.

**DISCLAIMER:** This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Representative Dan N. Johnson proposes the following substitute bill:

### **VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL**

### **INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Dan N. Johnson**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **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;

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- ▶ 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

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

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

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

#### **Part 2. Membership Eligibility**

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

- (1) (a) The state shall participate in the program on behalf of the state's employees.
- (b) Other employers, including political subdivisions and educational institutions, are eligible, but are not required, to participate in the program on behalf of their employees.
- (2) (a) As provided in Subsection 26B-3-908(5), the Department of Health and Human Services may participate in the program for the purpose of providing health and dental benefits to children enrolled in the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program created in Title 26B, Chapter 3, Part 9, Utah Children's Health Insurance Program.
- (b) If the Department of Health and Human Services participates in the program under the provisions of this Subsection (2), all insurance risk associated with the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program shall be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Human Services and not the program or the office.
- (3) Volunteer emergency medical service personnel are eligible to participate in the program in accordance with Section [~~26B-4-136~~] 53-2d-703.
- (4) A covered individual shall be eligible for coverage after termination of employment under rules adopted by the board.

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

- (a) retirees;
- (b) members;
- (c) participants;
- (d) employees who have medical employee benefit plan coverage at the time of their retirement; and
- (e) current spouses of those who are eligible under Subsections (5)(a) through (d).

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

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

(1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(e)~~ (f) "PEHP" means the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program created in Section 49-20-103.

~~(d)~~ (g) "Political subdivision" means a county, a municipality, a limited purpose government entity described in Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Special Districts, or Title 17D, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Other Entities, or

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an entity created by an interlocal agreement under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.

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

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

(3) (a) The bureau shall contract with a qualifying association to create, implement, and administer the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel ~~[Health]~~ Insurance Program described in this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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~~(c)~~ (d) if seeking health insurance:

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

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

(ii) the individual's premium cost {share} for individual, double, or family coverage through another source exceeds {a dollar threshold for affordability as established by the bureau through rule} 20% or greater of the premium cost of the program created by this section;

(e) if seeking dental insurance:

(i) (A) is not eligible for a dental plan through an employer or a spouse's employer; and

(B) is not eligible for dental coverage under a government sponsored healthcare program; or

(ii) the individual's premium cost {share} for individual, double, or family coverage exceeds {a dollar threshold for affordability as established by the bureau through rule;} 20% or greater of the premium cost of the program created by this section; and

~~(c)~~ (f) ~~[reside]~~ resides in the state ~~{; and}~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Within existing appropriations, the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Insurance Program may offer basic life insurance and long-term disability insurance

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to participants to enhance recruitment and retention efforts.

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

(b) The bureau shall convene an advisory board:

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

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

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

(B) PEHP.

(7) For purposes of this section, the qualifying association that receives the contract under Subsection (3) shall be considered the public agency for whom the program participant is volunteering under 29 C.F.R. Sec. 553.101.

Section 3. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.