

1 SENATE BILL 476

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Jay C. Block

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO RETIREE HEALTH CARE; EXEMPTING FIRST RESPONDERS
12 FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO PAY PREMIUMS OR FEES TO PARTICIPATE IN
13 THE RETIREE HEALTH CARE ACT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. Section 10-7C-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,
17 Chapter 6, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "10-7C-13. PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS ON HEALTH CARE
19 PLANS.--

20 A. Except as otherwise provided in this section,
21 each eligible retiree shall pay a monthly premium for the basic
22 plan in an amount set by the board not to exceed fifty dollars
23 (\$50.00) plus the amount, if any, of the compounded annual
24 increases authorized by the board, which increases [~~shall not~~
25 ~~exceed nine percent until fiscal year 2008 after which the~~

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1 ~~increases~~] shall not exceed the authority's group health care
2 trend. In addition to the monthly premium for the basic plan,
3 each current retiree and nonsalaried eligible participating
4 entity governing authority member who becomes an eligible
5 retiree shall also pay monthly an additional participation fee
6 set by the board. That fee shall be five dollars (\$5.00) plus
7 the amount, if any, of the compounded annual increases
8 authorized by the board, which increases [~~shall not exceed nine~~
9 ~~percent until fiscal year 2008 after which the increases~~] shall
10 not exceed the authority's group health care trend. The
11 additional monthly participation fee paid by the current
12 retirees and nonsalaried eligible participating entity
13 governing authority members who become eligible retirees shall
14 be a consideration and a condition for being permitted to
15 participate in the Retiree Health Care Act. A legislative
16 member or a former participating employer governing authority
17 member shall pay a monthly premium for any selected plan equal
18 to one-twelfth of the annual cost of the claims and
19 administrative costs of that plan allocated to the member by
20 the board. In addition, a legislative member or a former
21 participating employer governing authority member shall pay the
22 additional monthly participation fee set by the board pursuant
23 to this subsection as a consideration and condition for
24 participation in the Retiree Health Care Act. Eligible
25 dependents shall pay monthly premiums in amounts that with

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1 other money appropriated to the fund shall cover the cost of
2 the basic plan for the eligible dependents.

3 B. Eligible retirees and eligible dependents shall
4 pay monthly premiums to cover the cost of the optional plans
5 that they elect to receive, and the board shall adopt rules for
6 the collection of additional premiums from eligible retirees
7 and eligible dependents participating in the optional plans.
8 An eligible retiree or eligible dependent may authorize the
9 authority in writing to deduct the amount of these premiums
10 from the monthly annuity payments, if applicable.

11 C. The participating employers, active employees
12 and retirees, except as provided in Subsection E of this
13 section, are responsible for the financial viability of the
14 program. The overall financial viability is not an additional
15 financial obligation of the state.

16 D. For eligible retirees who become eligible for
17 participation on or after July 1, 2001, the board may determine
18 monthly premiums based on the retirees' years of credited
19 service with participating employers.

20 E. An eligible retiree with at least twenty years
21 of service as a first responder shall be exempt from paying any
22 premium or fee to participate in the Retiree Health Care Act.

23 F. As used in this section, "first responder" means
24 a person certified or licensed by law as:

25 (1) a law enforcement officer;

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1 (2) a firefighter or volunteer firefighter; or

2 (3) an emergency medical technician."

3 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**--Seven million five hundred
4 thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) is appropriated from the general
5 fund to the retiree health care authority for expenditure in
6 fiscal year 2026 to cover costs associated with exempting first
7 responders from paying any premium or fee to participate in the
8 Retiree Health Care Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered
9 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert
10 to the general fund.

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