1999 Session

Budget Bill - SB800 (Introduced)

Item 4-6.03

§ 4-6.03 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

a. Any medical/hospitalization benefit program provided for state employees shall include the following provision: any state employee, as defined in § 2.1-20.1, Code of Virginia, shall have the option to accept or reject coverage.

b. Except as provided for sworn personnel of the Department of State Police, no payment of, or reimbursement for, the employer paid contribution to the State Police Officers' Retirement System, or any system offering like benefits, shall be made by the Compensation Board of the Commonwealth at a rate greater than the employer rate established for the general classified workforce of the Commonwealth covered under the Virginia Retirement System. Any cost for benefits exceeding such general rate shall be borne by the employee or, in the case of a political subdivision, by the employer.

c. Each agency may, within the funds appropriated by this act, implement a transit and ridesharing incentive program for its employees. With such programs, agencies may reimburse employees for all or a portion of the costs incurred from using public transit, car pools, or van pools. The Secretary of Transportation shall develop guidelines for the implementation of such programs and any agency program must be developed in accordance with such guidelines. The guidelines shall be in accordance with the federal National Energy Policy Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-486), and no program shall provide an incentive that exceeds the actual costs incurred by the employee.

d. Any hospital with fewer than 105 beds and which has a minority patient population in excess of 75 percent shall be allowed to participate in the Employee Health Insurance Program pursuant to § 2.1-20.1, Code of Virginia, provided that such hospital enters into a written agreement to accept the same level of reimbursement as the participating hospitals in the same geographic region.

e. Any hospital that serves as the primary medical facility for state employees may be allowed to participate in the State Employee Health Insurance Program pursuant to §2.1-20.1, Code of Virginia, provided that (1) such hospital is not a participating provider in the network, contracted by the Department of Personnel *and* Training, that serves state employees, and (2) such hospital enters into a written agreement with the Department of Personnel and Training as to the rates of reimbursement. The Department shall accept the lowest rates offered by the hospital from among the rates charged by the hospital to (1) its largest purchaser of care, (2) any state or federal public program, or (3) any special rate developed by the hospital for the state employee health benefits program which is lower than either of the rates above. If the Department and the hospital cannot come to an agreement, the Department shall reimburse the hospital at the rates contained in its final offer to the hospital until the dispute is resolved. Any dispute shall be resolved through arbitration or through the procedures established by the Administrative Process Act, as the hospital may decide, without impairment of any residual right to judicial review.

f. Any retired sheriff of a city with a population of fewer than 100,000 as determined by the 1990 census of the population of the United States who did not receive the 4.35 percent salary increase as provided for in Item 528 of Chapter ~~921~~ *912*, 1996 Acts of Assembly, shall be given credit for such salary increase and his retirement benefits shall be recalculated and adjusted retroactive to his retirement date.