

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4277

To provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to employees in the executive and judicial branches of the Government be made available to Federal annuitants, individuals serving in the legislative branch of the Government, and members and retired members of the uniformed services.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to employees in the executive and judicial branches of the Government be made available to Federal annuitants, individuals serving in the legislative branch of the Government, and members and retired members of the uniformed services.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Employees  
3 Health Insurance Premium Conversion Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM CONVERSION AR-**  
5 **RANGEMENTS.**

6       For purposes of this Act, the term “health insurance  
7 premium conversion arrangement” refers to an arrange-  
8 ment described in the letter of the Office of Personnel  
9 Management (numbered 00–204) dated February 14,  
10 2000, and entitled “Federal Employees’ Health Benefits  
11 (FEHB) Program: Premium Conversion”.

12 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PREMIUM CONVERSION ARRANGE-**  
13 **MENTS TO FEDERAL ANNUITANTS.**

14       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel Manage-  
15 ment shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the  
16 option to pay one’s FEHBP enrollment charges through  
17 a health insurance premium conversion arrangement shall  
18 be made available to annuitants, beginning on the same  
19 date as when such option first becomes available to Fed-  
20 eral employees generally under the new rules described in  
21 the letter identified in section 2 (or as soon thereafter as  
22 possible, but in no event later than the deadline specified  
23 in section 7).

24       (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

1           (1) the term “annuitant” has the meaning  
2           given such term by section 8901 of title 5, United  
3           States Code; and

4           (2) the term “FEHBP” refers to the health  
5           benefits program established by chapter 89 of title  
6           5, United States Code.

7   **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF PREMIUM CONVERSION ARRANGE-**  
8                           **MENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established by each  
10          employing entity within the legislative branch of the Gov-  
11          ernment a plan, similar in effect to the health insurance  
12          premium conversion arrangement described in section 2,  
13          for the benefit of individuals employed in or under such  
14          entity.

15          (b) REGULATIONS.—Any regulations necessary to  
16          carry out this section may—

17               (1) with respect to any individuals whose pay is  
18               disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the  
19               House of Representatives, be prescribed by the Com-  
20               mittee on House Oversight of the House of Rep-  
21               resentatives; and

22               (2) with respect to any individuals whose pay is  
23               disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, be pre-  
24               scribed by the Committee on Rules and Administra-  
25               tion of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF PREMIUM CONVERSION ARRANGE-**  
2 **MENT TO MEMBERS AND RETIRED MEMBERS**  
3 **OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established by each  
5 of the appropriate Secretaries a plan, similar in effect to  
6 the health insurance premium conversion arrangement de-  
7 scribed in section 2, for the benefit of members and retired  
8 members of the uniformed services under the jurisdiction  
9 of the Secretary involved.

10 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

11 (1) the term “member of the uniformed serv-  
12 ices” means a member of the uniformed services,  
13 other than a retired member of the uniformed serv-  
14 ices;

15 (2) the term “retired member of the uniformed  
16 services” means a member or former member of the  
17 uniformed services entitled to retired or retainer  
18 pay;

19 (3) the term “uniformed services” has the  
20 meaning given such term by section 2101 of title 5,  
21 United States Code; and

22 (4) the term “appropriate Secretary” means the  
23 Secretary of Defense, except that—

24 (A) with respect to the Coast Guard when  
25 it is not operating as a service of the Navy,

1           such term means the Secretary of Transpor-  
2           tation;

3                   (B) with respect to the commissioned corps  
4           of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
5           ministration, such term means the Secretary of  
6           Commerce; and

7                   (C) with respect to the commissioned corps  
8           of the Public Health Service, such term means  
9           the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

10 **SEC. 6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

11       The Office of Personnel Management shall make in-  
12       formation and technical assistance available to agencies  
13       and other employing entities in the development of their  
14       plans under this Act.

15 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16       All plans required under sections 4 and 5, respec-  
17       tively, shall be completed in time so that the option to  
18       pay one's enrollment charges through a health insurance  
19       premium conversion arrangement shall become available  
20       no later than the first day of the first applicable pay pe-  
21       riod beginning on or after January 1, 2001.

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