Public Laws

ENACTED DURING THE
SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, January 21, 1974, and adjourned sine die on Friday, December 20, 1974. Richard M. Nixon, President until his resignation August 9, 1974; Gerald R. Ford, President on and after August 9, 1974; Gerald R. Ford, Vice President until August 9, 1974; Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice President on and after December 19, 1974; Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Public Law 93-246

AN ACT

To increase the contribution of the Government to the costs of health benefits for Federal employees, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) subsections (a) and (b) of section 8906 of title 5, United States Code, are amended to read as follows:

"(a) The Commission shall determine the average of the subscription charges in effect on the beginning date of each contract year with respect to self alone or self and family enrollments under this chapter, as applicable, for the highest level of benefits offered by—

(1) the service benefit plan;
(2) the indemnity benefit plan;
(3) the two employee organization plans with the largest number of enrollments, as determined by the Commission; and
(4) the two comprehensive medical plans with the largest number of enrollments, as determined by the Commission.

"(b) (1) Except as provided by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the biweekly Government contribution for health benefits for an employee or annuitant enrolled in a health benefits plan under this chapter shall be adjusted, beginning on the first day of the first applicable pay period of each year, to an amount equal to the following percentage, as applicable, of the average subscription charge determined under subsection (a) of this section: 50 percent for applicable pay periods commencing in 1974 and 60 percent for applicable pay periods commencing in 1975 and in each year thereafter.
“(2) The biweekly Government contribution for an employee or annuitant enrolled in a plan under this chapter shall not exceed 75 percent of the subscription charge.”.

(b) Section 8906(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking out “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsection (b)” in lieu thereof.

(c) Section 8906(g) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking out “subsection (a)” of.

Sec. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an annuitant, as defined under section 8901(3) of title 5, United States Code, who is participating or who is eligible to participate in the health benefits program offered under the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (74 Stat. 849; Public Law 86-724), may elect, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the United States Civil Service Commission, to be covered under the provisions of chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, in lieu of coverage under such Act.

(b) An annuitant who elects to be covered under the provisions of chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, shall be entitled to the benefits under such chapter 89.

Sec. 3. Section 8902 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following subsection:

“(j) Each contract under this chapter shall require the carrier to agree to pay for or provide a health service or supply in an individual case if the Commission finds that the employee, annuitant, or family member is entitled thereto under the terms of the contract.”.

Sec. 4. (a) The first section of this Act shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after January 1, 1974.

(b) Section 2 shall take effect on the one hundred and eighty day following the date of enactment or on such earlier date as the United States Civil Service Commission may prescribe.

(c) Section 3 shall become effective with respect to any contract entered into or renewed on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) The determination of the average of subscription charges and the adjustment of the Government contributions for 1973, under section 8906 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by the first section of this Act, shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after the thirtieth day following the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved January 31, 1974.