COMMITTEE REPORT

April 9, 2014

**S. 897**

Introduced by Senator Coleman

S. Printed 4/9/14--S.

Read the first time January 14, 2014.

**THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 897) to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 1‑11‑723 so as to provide that a person who retires from a solicitor’s office, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking SECTION 1 and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Section 1‑11‑730 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 278 of 2012, is further amended by adding an appropriately lettered subsection to read:

“( )(1) A person who retires from employment with a solicitor’s office under a state retirement system is eligible to participate in the state health and dental plans by paying the full premium as determined by the board if at least one county in the judicial circuit covered by that solicitor’s office participates in the state health and dental plans and the person’s last five years of employment prior to retirement are consecutive and in a full‑time permanent position with that solicitor’s office or another entity that participates in the state health and dental plans.

(2) The provisions of this subsection must be interpreted to provide eligibility to the employee, retiree, and their eligible dependents.” /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

HUGH K. LEATHERMAN, SR. for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Public Employee Benefit Authority

PEBA indicates there is no fiscal impact with the adoption of this bill.

*Approved By:*

Brenda Hart

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 1‑11‑723 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO RETIRES FROM A SOLICITOR’S OFFICE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE COUNTY IN WHICH HE IS EMPLOYED AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT PARTICIPATES IN THESE PLANS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AND TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2012.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 11, Title 1 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 1‑11‑723. (A) In addition to the employees and retirees and their eligible dependents covered under the state health and dental insurance plans pursuant to Sections 1‑11‑710 and 1‑11‑720, a person who retires from a solicitor’s office may participate in the state health and dental insurance plans regardless of whether the county in which he is employed at the time of his retirement participates in these plans. The benefits provided must be the same benefits provided to state and school district employees. The board shall establish procedures by which the county from which the employee retires is to make an appropriate employer contribution for the retiree’s coverage, and the county shall make this contribution.

(B) The provisions of this section must be interpreted to provide eligibility to the employee, retiree, and their eligible dependents.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor and is retroactive to January 1, 2012.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑