

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 561

To provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to Federal employees be made available to Federal annuitants and members and retired members of the uniformed services.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2001

Ms. COLLINS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to Federal employees be made available to Federal annuitants 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Employees  
5       Health Insurance Premium Conversion Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM CONVERSION AR-**  
 2 **RANGEMENTS.**

3 In this Act, the term “health insurance premium con-  
 4 version arrangement” refers to an arrangement described  
 5 in the letter of the Office of Personnel Management (num-  
 6 bered 00–204) dated February 14, 2000, and entitled  
 7 “Federal Employees’ Health Benefits (FEHB) Program:  
 8 Premium Conversion”.

9 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PREMIUM CONVERSION ARRANGE-**  
 10 **MENTS TO FEDERAL ANNUITANTS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

12 (1) the term “annuitant” has the meaning  
 13 given that term under section 8901 of title 5, United  
 14 States Code; and

15 (2) the term “FEHBP” refers to the health  
 16 benefits program established under chapter 89 of  
 17 title 5, United States Code.

18 (b) CONVERSION ARRANGEMENTS.—The Office of  
 19 Personnel Management shall take all necessary actions to  
 20 ensure that the option to pay one’s FEHBP enrollment  
 21 charges through a health insurance premium conversion  
 22 arrangement shall be made available to annuitants, begin-  
 23 ning on the same date as when such option first becomes  
 24 available to Federal employees generally under the rules  
 25 described in the letter identified in section 2 (or as soon

1 thereafter as possible, but in no event later than the date  
 2 specified under section 6).

3 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF PREMIUM CONVERSION ARRANGE-**  
 4 **MENT TO MEMBERS AND RETIRED MEMBERS**  
 5 **OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “appropriate Secretary” means the  
 8 Secretary of Defense, except that—

9 (A) with respect to the Coast Guard when  
 10 it is not operating as a service of the Navy, that  
 11 term means the Secretary of Transportation;

12 (B) with respect to the commissioned corps  
 13 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
 14 ministration, that term means the Secretary of  
 15 Commerce; and

16 (C) with respect to the commissioned corps  
 17 of the Public Health Service, that term means  
 18 the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

19 (2) the term “member of the uniformed serv-  
 20 ices” means a member of the uniformed services,  
 21 other than a retired member of the uniformed serv-  
 22 ices;

23 (3) the term “retired member of the uniformed  
 24 services” means a member or former member of the

1       uniformed services entitled to retired or retainer  
2       pay; and

3               (4) the term “uniformed services” has the  
4       meaning given that term under section 2101 of title  
5       5, United States Code.

6       (b) **CONVERSION ARRANGEMENTS.**—Each of the ap-  
7       propriate Secretaries shall establish a plan, similar in ef-  
8       fect to the health insurance premium conversion arrange-  
9       ment described in section 2, for the benefit of members  
10      and retired members of the uniformed services under the  
11      jurisdiction of the Secretary involved.

12   **SEC. 5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

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

17   **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18       All plans required under section 4 shall be completed  
19      in time so that the option to pay one’s enrollment charges  
20      through a health insurance premium conversion arrange-  
21      ment shall become available not later than the first day  
22      of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after  
23      January 1, 2002.

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