

A bill for an act  
relating to state employees; requiring that health insurance benefits be made  
available to domestic partners of state employees if they are also made available  
to spouses; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 43A.02, by adding a  
subdivision; 43A.24, subdivision 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 43A.02, is amended by adding a  
subdivision to read:

Subd. 18a. **Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means a person who has entered  
into a committed interdependent relationship with another adult, where the partners:

(1) are responsible for each other's basic common welfare;

(2) share a common residence and intend to do so indefinitely;

(3) are not related by blood or adoption to an extent that would prohibit marriage in  
this state; and

(4) are legally competent and qualified to enter into a contract.

For purposes of this subdivision, domestic partners may share a common residence,  
even if they do not each have a legal right to possess the residence or one or both domestic  
partners possess additional real property.

If one domestic partner temporarily leaves the common residence with the intention  
to return, the domestic partners continue to share a common residence for the purposes  
of this subdivision.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 43A.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **General.** Employees, including persons on layoff from a civil  
service position, and employees who are employed less than full time, shall be eligible

2.1 for state paid life insurance and hospital, medical and dental benefits as provided in  
2.2 collective bargaining agreements or plans established pursuant to section 43A.18. If a  
2.3 collective bargaining agreement or plan provides state paid health insurance for spouses of  
2.4 employees, the insurance must be made available to domestic partners of state employees  
2.5 on the same terms and conditions.

2.6 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.7 Sections 1 and 2 are effective January 1, 2012.