

RESOLUTION

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly created the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees (State Health Plan or Plan) to provide eligible employees and retired employees, and certain dependents, with one or more comprehensive group health plans; and

1. The State Health Plan is a government payer and provides health care coverage to more than 727,000 teachers, state employees, current and former lawmakers, state university and community college personnel, retirees and their dependents across the United States and abroad.
2. The North Carolina General Assembly has vested the State Treasurer, the Executive Administrator and the Board of Trustees with certain responsibilities to provide and administer these aforementioned health plans to Plan members.
3. The State Treasurer, the Executive Administrator and the Board of Trustees are required to carry out their responsibilities as fiduciaries to the Plan and its members.
4. Pursuant to G.S. § 135-48.30, the State Treasurer has the following pertinent powers and duties:
 - a. To administer and operate the State Health Plan;
 - b. Set benefits, premium rates, co-pays, deductibles, and coinsurance percentages and maximums, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees;
 - c. Design and implement coordination of benefits policies;
 - d. Set the allowable charges for medical and prescription drug benefits, as necessary;
 - e. Establish procedures to require prior medical approval and implement the procedures after consultation with the Board of Trustees.
5. The State Treasurer may delegate his powers and duties to the Executive Administrator, the Board of Trustees, and employees of the Plan while maintaining the responsibility for the performance of those powers and duties.
6. The State Treasurer has delegated certain of these powers and duties to the Plan's Executive Administrator; and

CORONAVIRUS 2019 "COVID-19"

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease named after the virus "SARS-CoV-2" that can cause serious illness or even death (hereinafter referred to as "COVID-19"); and

1. On January 30, 2020 the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a "public health emergency of

international concern.”

2. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency for the United States.
3. On March 10, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 116 declaring a state of emergency to coordinate the response and protective actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina.
4. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.
5. To date, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina. This is a fluid, rapidly evolving situation that the Plan is monitoring closely and evaluating appropriate actions; and

ACCESSIBILITY

WHEREAS, the State Treasurer, the Executive Administrator and the Board of Trustees desire to ensure that member cost shares for health benefits covered by the Plan connected with the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 are not a burdensome financial barrier to members; and

ACTION

WHEREAS, it is important for the Plan to act preemptively and quickly in response to COVID-19 developments as they arise without undue delay;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE HEALTH PLAN FOR TEACHERS AND STATE EMPLOYEES THAT:

Section 1. The Board of Trustees hereby approves and authorizes the State Treasurer and the Executive Administrator of the Plan to, consistent with their fiduciary responsibility, hereafter take all action within their authority as may reasonably be necessary to preemptively address and quickly respond to COVID-19 for the benefit of Plan members without further prior consultation with the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. This authority shall be granted until rescinded by the Board of Trustees. Nothing herein shall be construed to require the State Treasurer, the Executive Administrator or the Board of Trustees to take any particular action.

Section 3. The State Treasurer and the Executive Administrator shall communicate all actions undertaken under this authority to the Board of Trustees as soon as practicable and shall provide a financial reporting of COVID-19 actions undertaken once comprehensive verified financial information is available.