NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE EMPLOYEES FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN

SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

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XI
SUMMARY

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE EMPLOYEES
FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

We have amended the "Flexible Benefits Plan" that we previously established for you and other eligible employees. Under this Plan, you will be able to choose among certain benefits that we make available. The benefits that you may choose are outlined in this Summary Plan Description. We will also tell you about other important information concerning the amended Plan, such as the rules you must satisfy before you can join and the laws that protect your rights.

One of the most important features of our Plan is that the benefits being offered are generally ones that you are already paying for, but normally with money that has first been subject to income and Social Security taxes. Under our Plan, these same expenses will be paid for with a portion of your pay before Federal income or Social Security taxes are withheld. This means that you will pay less tax and have more money to spend and save.

Read this Summary Plan Description carefully so that you understand the provisions of our amended Plan and the benefits you will receive. This SPD describes the Plan's benefits and obligations as contained in the legal Plan document, which governs the operation of the Plan. The Plan document is written in much more technical and precise language. If the non-technical language in this SPD and the technical, legal language of the Plan document conflict, the Plan document always governs. Also, if there is a conflict between an insurance contract and either the Plan document or this Summary Plan Description, the insurance contract will control. If you wish to receive a copy of the legal Plan document, please contact the Administrator.

This SPD describes the current provisions of the Plan which are designed to comply with applicable legal requirements. The Plan is subject to federal laws, such as the Internal Revenue Code and other federal and state laws which may affect your rights. The provisions of the Plan are subject to revision due to a change in laws or due to pronouncements by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other federal agencies. We may also amend or terminate this Plan. If the provisions of the Plan that are described in this SPD change, we will notify you.

We have attempted to answer most of the questions you may have regarding your benefits in the Plan. If this SPD does not answer all of your questions, please contact the Administrator (or other plan representative). The name and address of the Administrator can be found in the Article of this SPD entitled "General Information About the Plan."

I
ELIGIBILITY

1. When Can I Become a Participant in the Plan?

Before you become a Plan member (referred to in this Summary Plan Description as a "Participant"), there are certain rules which you must satisfy. First, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be an active employee. After that, the next step is to actually join the Plan on the "entry date" that we have established for all employees. The "entry date" is defined in Question 3 below. You will also be required to complete certain application forms before you can enroll in the Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.

2. What Are the Eligibility Requirements for Our Plan?

You will be eligible to join the Plan once you have satisfied the conditions for coverage under our group medical plan. Of course, if you were already a participant before this amendment, you will remain a participant.

3. When Is My Entry Date?

Once you have met the eligibility requirements, your entry date will be the first day of the pay period coinciding with or following the date you met the eligibility requirements.

4. What Must I Do to Enroll in the Plan?

Before you can join the Plan, you must complete an application to participate in the Plan. The application includes your personal choices for each of the benefits which are being offered under the Plan. You must also authorize us to set some of your earnings aside in order to pay for the benefits you have elected.

However, if you are already covered under any of the insured benefits, you will automatically participate in this Plan to the extent of your premiums unless you elect not to participate in this Plan.

II
OPERATION

1. How Does This Plan Operate?

Before the start of each Plan Year, you will be able to elect to have some of your upcoming pay contributed to the Plan. These amounts will be used to pay for the benefits you have chosen. The portion of your pay that is paid to the Plan is not subject to Federal income or Social Security taxes. In other words, this allows you to use tax-free dollars to pay for certain kinds of benefits and expenses which you normally pay for with out-of-pocket, taxable dollars. However, if you receive a reimbursement for an expense under the Plan, you cannot claim a Federal income tax credit or deduction on your return. (See the section entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of "Plan Year.")

III
CONTRIBUTIONS

1. How Much of My Pay May the Employer Redirect?

Each year, we will automatically contribute on your behalf enough of your compensation to pay for the coverage provided unless you elect not to receive any or all of such coverage. These amounts will be deducted from your pay over the course of the year.

2. What Happens to Contributions Made to the Plan?

Before each Plan Year begins, you will select the benefits you want and how much of the contributions should go toward each benefit. It is very important that you make these choices carefully based on what you expect to spend on each covered benefit or expense during the Plan Year. Later, they will be used to pay for the expenses as they arise during the Plan Year.

3. When Must I Decide Which Accounts I Want to Use?

You are required by Federal law to decide before the Plan Year begins, during the election period (defined below). You must decide two things. First, which benefits you want and, second, how much should go toward each benefit.

If you are already covered by any of the insured benefits offered by this Plan, you will automatically become a Participant to the extent of the premiums for such insurance unless you elect, during the election period (defined below), not to participate in the Plan.

4. When Is the Election Period for Our Plan?

Your election period will start on the date you first meet the eligibility requirements and end 30 days after your entry date. (You should review Section I on Eligibility to better understand the eligibility requirements and entry date.) Then, for each following Plan Year, the election period is established by the Administrator and applied uniformly to all Participants. It will normally be a period of time prior to the beginning of each Plan Year. The Administrator will inform you each year about the election period. (See the Article entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of Plan Year.)

5. May I Change My Elections During the Plan Year?

Generally, you cannot change the elections you have made after the beginning of the Plan Year. However, there are certain limited situations when you can change your elections. You are permitted to change elections if you have a "change in status" and you make an election change that is consistent with the change in status. Currently, Federal law considers the following events to be a change in status:

-- Marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, legal separation or annulment;

-- Change in the number of dependents, including birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a dependent;

-- Any of the following events for you, your spouse or dependent: termination or commencement of employment, a strike or lockout, commencement or return from an unpaid leave of absence, a change in worksite, or any other change in employment status that affects eligibility for benefits;

-- One of your dependents satisfies or ceases to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to change in age, student status, or any similar circumstance; and

-- A change in the place of residence of you, your spouse or dependent that would lead to a change in status, such as moving out of a coverage area for insurance.

In addition, if you are participating in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, then there is a change in status if your dependent no longer meets the qualifications to be eligible for dependent care.

There are detailed rules on when a change in election is deemed to be consistent with a change in status. In addition, there are laws that give you rights to change health coverage for you, your spouse, or your dependents. If you change coverage due to rights you have under the law, then you can make a corresponding change in your elections under the Plan. If any of these conditions apply to you, you should contact the Administrator.

If the cost of a benefit provided under the Plan increases or decreases during a Plan Year, then we will automatically increase or decrease, as the case may be, your salary redirection election. If the cost increases significantly, you will be permitted to either make corresponding changes in your payments or revoke your election and obtain coverage under another benefit package option with similar coverage, or revoke your election entirely.

If the coverage under a Benefit is significantly curtailed or ceases during a Plan Year, then you may revoke your elections and elect to receive on a prospective basis coverage under another plan with similar coverage. In addition, if we add a new coverage option or eliminate an existing option, you may elect the newly-added option (or elect another option if an option has been eliminated) and make corresponding election changes to other options providing similar coverage. If you are not a Participant, you may elect to join the Plan. There are also certain situations when you may be able to change your elections on account of a change under the plan of your spouse's, former spouse's or dependent's employer.

These rules on change due to cost or coverage do not apply to the Health Flexible Spending Account, and you may not change your election to the Health Flexible Spending Account if you make a change due to cost or coverage for insurance.

You may not change your election under the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account if the cost change is imposed by a dependent care provider who is your relative.

6. May I Make New Elections in Future Plan Years?

Yes, you may. For each new Plan Year, you may change the elections that you previously made. You may also choose not to participate in the Plan for the upcoming Plan Year. If you do not make new elections during the election period before a new Plan Year begins, you will not be considered a Participant for the non-insured benefit options under the Plan for the upcoming Plan Year.

IV
BENEFITS

1. What Benefits Are Available?

Under our Plan, you can choose to receive your entire compensation or use a portion to pay for the following benefits or expenses during the year:

Health Flexible Spending Account:

The Health Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for expenses allowed under Sections 105 and 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code which are not covered by our insured medical plan or privately held insurance policies and save taxes at the same time. The Health Flexible Spending Account allows you to be reimbursed by the Employer for out-of-pocket medical, dental and/or vision expenses incurred by you and your dependents. In addition, you may claim reimbursement for your drug costs, including "over-the-counter" drugs. You may not, however, be reimbursed for the cost of other health care coverage maintained outside of the Plan, or for long-term care expenses. A list of covered expenses is available from the Administrator.

The most that you can contribute to your Health Flexible Spending Account each Plan Year is $4,000.00. In order to be reimbursed for a health care expense, you must submit to the Administrator an itemized bill from the service provider. We will also provide you with a debit or credit card to use to pay for medical expenses, such as co-pays, deductibles, medical

equipment and drug costs. The Administrator will provide you with further details. Amounts reimbursed from the Plan may not be claimed as a deduction on your personal income tax return. Reimbursement from the fund shall be paid at least once a month.

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act: Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account:

The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for out-of-pocket, work-related dependent day-care cost with pre-tax dollars. If you are married, you can use the account if you and your spouse both work or, in some situations, if your spouse goes to school full-time. Single employees can also use the account.

An eligible dependent is someone for whom you can claim expenses on Federal Income Tax Form 2441 "Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses." Children must be under age 13. Other dependents must be physically or mentally unable to care for themselves. Dependent Care arrangements which qualify include:

(a) A Dependent (Day) Care Center, provided that if care is provided by the facility for more than six individuals, the facility complies with applicable state and local laws:

(b) An Educational Institution for pre-school children. For older children, only expenses for non-school care are eligible; and

(c) An "Individual" who provides care inside or outside your home: The "Individual" may not be a child of yours under age 19 or anyone you claim as a dependent for Federal tax purposes.

You should make sure that the dependent care expenses you are currently paying for qualify under our Plan. The law places limits on the amount of money that can be paid to you in a calendar year from your Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. Generally, your reimbursements may not exceed the lesser of: (a) $5,000 (if you are married filing a joint return or you are head of a household) or $2,500 (if you are married filing separate returns); (b) your taxable compensation; (c) your spouse's actual or deemed earned income (a spouse who is a full time student or incapable of caring for himself/herself has a monthly earned income of $250 for one dependent or $500 for two or more dependents). Also, in order to have the reimbursements made to you from this account be excludable from your income, you must provide a statement from the service provider including the name, address, and in most cases, the taxpayer identification number of the service provider on your tax form for the year, as well as the amount of such expense as proof that the expense has been incurred. In addition, Federal tax laws permit a tax credit for certain dependent care expenses you may be paying for even if you are not a Participant in this Plan. You may save more money if you take advantage of this tax credit rather than using the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account under our Plan. Ask your tax adviser which is better for you.

Premium Expense Account:

A Premium Expense Account allows you to use tax-free dollars to pay for certain premium expenses under various insurance programs that we offer you. These premium expenses include:

-- Health care premiums under our self-funded medical plan.

-- Health care premiums under privately held insurance policies.

-- Dental insurance premiums.

-- Cancer insurance premiums.

-- Other insurance coverage that we may provide.

Under our Plan, we will establish sub-accounts for you for each different type of coverage that is available. Also, certain limits on the amount of coverage may apply.

The Administrator may terminate or modify Plan benefits at any time, subject to the provisions of any contracts providing benefits described above. Also, your coverage will end when you leave employment, are no longer eligible under the terms of any coverage, or when coverage terminates.

Any benefits to be provided by insurance will be provided only after (1) you have provided the Administrator the necessary information to apply for insurance, and (2) the insurance is in effect for you.

"Privately held insurance policies" do not include coverage obtained through a spouse's employment. Cost of these policies will only be reimbursed on adequate proof of coverage.

V
BENEFIT PAYMENTS

1. When Will I Receive Payments From My Accounts?

During the course of the Plan Year, you may submit requests for reimbursement of expenses you have incurred. Expenses are considered "incurred" when the service is performed, not necessarily when it is paid for. The Administrator will provide you with acceptable forms for submitting these requests for reimbursement. If the request qualifies as a benefit or expense that the Plan has agreed to pay, you will receive a reimbursement payment soon thereafter. Remember, these reimbursements which are made from the Plan are generally not subject to federal income tax or withholding. Nor are they subject to Social Security taxes. The provisions of the insurance contracts will control what benefits will be paid and when. You will only be reimbursed from the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account to the extent that there are sufficient funds in the Account to cover your request.

2. What Happens If I Don't Spend All Plan Contributions During the Plan Year?

If you have not spent all the amounts in your Health Flexible Spending Account by the end of the Plan Year, you may continue to incur claims for expenses during the "grace period." The "grace period" extends 2 1/2 months after the end of the Plan Year, during which time you can continue to incur claims and use up all amounts remaining in your Health Flexible Spending Account.

Any monies left at the end of the Plan Year and the grace period will be forfeited. Obviously, qualifying expenses that you incur late in the Plan Year or during the grace period for which you seek reimbursement after the end of such Plan Year and grace period will be paid first before any amount is forfeited. However, you must make your requests for reimbursement no later than 90 days after the end of the grace period. Because it is possible that you might forfeit amounts in the Plan if you do not fully use the contributions that have been made, it is important that you decide how much to place in each account carefully and conservatively. Remember, you must decide which benefits you want to contribute to and how much to place in each account before the Plan Year begins. You want to be as certain as you can that the amount you decide to place in each account will be used up entirely.

3. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

If you take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, you may revoke or change your existing elections for health insurance and the Health Flexible Spending Account. If your coverage in these benefits terminates, due to your revocation of the benefit while on leave or due to your non-payment of contributions, you will be permitted to reinstate coverage for the remaining part of the Plan Year upon your return. For the Health Flexible Spending Account, you may continue your coverage or you may revoke your coverage and resume it when you return. You can resume your coverage at its original level and make payments for the time that you are on leave. For example, if you elect $1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, then return and elect to resume your coverage at that level, your remaining payments will be increased to cover the difference - from $100 per month to $150 per month. Alternatively your maximum amount will be reduced proportionately for the time that you were gone. For example, if you elect $1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, your amount will be reduced to $900. The expenses you incur during the time you are not in the Health Flexible Spending Account are not reimbursable.

If you continue your coverage during your unpaid leave, you may pre-pay for the coverage, you may pay for your coverage on an after-tax basis while you are on leave, or you and your Employer may arrange a schedule for you to "catch up" your payments when you return.

4. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

If you are going into or returning from military service, you may have special rights to health care coverage under your Health Flexible Spending Account under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. These rights can include extended health care coverage. If you may be affected by this law, ask your Administrator for further details.

5. What Happens If I Terminate Employment?

If you leave our employ during the Plan Year, your right to benefits will be determined in the following manner:

(a) You will remain covered by insurance, but only for the period for which premiums have been paid prior to your termination of employment.

(b) You will still be able to request reimbursement for qualifying dependent care expenses from the balance remaining in your dependent care account at the time of termination of employment. However, no further salary redirection contributions will be made on your behalf after you terminate. You must submit all claims within 90 days of termination of employment.

(c) For health benefit coverage and Health Flexible Spending Account coverage on termination of employment, please see the Article entitled "Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA." Upon your termination of employment, your participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account will cease, and no further salary redirection contributions will be contributed on your behalf. However, you will be able to submit claims for health care expenses that were incurred before the end of the period for which payments to the Health Flexible Spending Account have already been made. Your further participation will be governed by "Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA."

6. Will My Social Security Benefits Be Affected?

Your Social Security benefits may be slightly reduced because when you receive tax-free benefits under our Plan, it reduces the amount of contributions that you make to the Federal Social Security system as well as our contribution to Social Security on your behalf.

VI
HIGHLY COMPENSATED AND KEY EMPLOYEES

1. Do Limitations Apply to Highly Compensated Employees?

Under the Internal Revenue Code, highly compensated employees and key employees generally are Participants who are officers, shareholders or highly paid. You will be notified by the Administrator each Plan Year whether you are a highly compensated employee or a key employee.

If you are within these categories, the amount of contributions and benefits for you may be limited so that the Plan as a whole does not unfairly favor those who are highly paid, their spouses or their dependents. Federal tax laws state that a plan will be considered to unfairly favor the key employees if they as a group receive more than 25% of all of the nontaxable benefits provided for under our Plan.

Plan experience will dictate whether contribution limitations on highly compensated employees or key employees will apply. You will be notified of these limitations if you are affected.

VII
PLAN ACCOUNTING

1. Periodic Statements

The Administrator will provide you with a statement of your account periodically during the Plan Year that shows your account balance. It is important to read these statements carefully so you understand the balance remaining to pay for a benefit. Remember, you want to spend all the money you have designated for a particular benefit by the end of the Plan Year.

VIII
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PLAN

This Section contains certain general information which you may need to know about the Plan.

1. General Plan Information

New Hampshire State Employees Flexible Benefits Plan is the name of the Plan.

Your Employer has assigned Plan Number 501 to your Plan.

The provisions of your amended Plan become effective on 01/01/2006. Your Plan was originally effective on 01/01/1991.

Your Plan's records are maintained on a twelve-month period of time. This is known as the Plan Year. The Plan Year begins on 01/01 and ends on 12/31.

2. Employer Information

Your Employer's name, address, and identification number are:

The State of New Hampshire
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
02-6000618

3. Plan Administrator Information

The name, address and business telephone number of your Plan's Administrator are:

The State of New Hampshire
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 271-3261

The Administrator keeps the records for the Plan and is responsible for the administration of the Plan. The Administrator will also answer any questions you may have about our Plan. You may contact the Administrator for any further information about the Plan.

4. Service of Legal Process

The name and address of the Plan's agent for service of legal process are:

The State of New Hampshire
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

5. Type of Administration

The type of Administration is Employer Administration.

6. Claims Submission

Claims for expenses should be submitted to:

Combined Services LLC
15 N Main Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301

IX
ADDITIONAL PLAN INFORMATION

1. Claims Process

You should submit reimbursement claims during the Plan Year, but in no event later than 90 days after the end of a Plan Year and the grace period (if it applies). However, if you terminate employment during the Plan Year, you must submit your claims within 90 days after your termination of employment. Any claims submitted after that time will not be considered.

Claims for benefits that are insured or self-funded will be reviewed in accordance with procedures contained in the policies. All other general claims or requests should be directed to the Administrator of our Plan. If a dependent care or medical expense claim under the Plan is denied in whole or in part, you or your beneficiary will receive written notification. The notification will include the reasons for the denial, with reference to the specific provisions of the Plan on which the denial was based, a description of any additional information needed to process the claim and an explanation of the claims review procedure. Within 60 days after denial, you or your beneficiary may submit a written request for reconsideration of the application to the Administrator.

Any such request should be accompanied by documents or records in support of your appeal. You or your beneficiary may review pertinent documents and submit issues and comments in writing. The Administrator will review the claim and provide, within 60 days, a written response to the appeal. (This period may be extended an additional 60 days under certain circumstances.) In this response, the Administrator will explain the reason for the decision, with specific reference to the provisions of the Plan on which the decision is based. The Administrator has the exclusive right to interpret the appropriate plan provisions. Decisions of the Administrator are conclusive and binding.

X
CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain employees and their families covered under health benefits under this Plan will be entitled to the opportunity to elect a temporary extension of health coverage (called "COBRA continuation coverage") where coverage under the Plan would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan Participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law.

The Plan Administrator or its designee is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Plan Administrator or its designee to Plan Participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA. While the Plan itself is not a group health plan, it

does provide health benefits. Whenever "Plan" is used in this section, it means any of the health benefits under this Plan including the Health Flexible Spending Account.

1. What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is the temporary extension of group health plan coverage that must be offered to certain Plan Participants and their eligible family members (called "Qualified Beneficiaries") at group rates. The right to COBRA continuation coverage is triggered by the occurrence of a life event that results in the loss of coverage under the terms of the Plan (the "Qualifying Event"). The coverage must be identical to the coverage that the Qualified Beneficiary had immediately before the Qualifying Event, or if the coverage has been changed, the coverage must be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated active employees who have not experienced a Qualifying Event (in other words, similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries).

2. Who Can Become a Qualified Beneficiary?

In general, a Qualified Beneficiary can be:

(a) Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under a Plan by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the Spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

(b) Any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, and any individual who is covered by the Plan as an alternate recipient under a qualified medical support order. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

The term "covered Employee" includes any individual who is provided coverage under the Plan due to his or her performance of services for the employer sponsoring the Plan. However, this provision does not establish eligibility of these individuals. Eligibility for Plan coverage shall be determined in accordance with Plan Eligibility provisions.

An individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary if the individual's status as a covered Employee is attributable to a period in which the individual was a nonresident alien who received from the individual's Employer no earned income that constituted income from sources within the United States. If, on account of the preceding reason, an individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary, then a Spouse or Dependent child of the individual will also not be considered a Qualified Beneficiary by virtue of the relationship to the individual. A domestic partner is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage.

3. What is a Qualifying Event?

A Qualifying Event is any of the following if the Plan provided that the Plan participant would lose coverage (i.e., cease to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event) in the absence of COBRA continuation coverage:

(a) The death of a covered Employee.

(b) The termination (other than by reason of the Employee's gross misconduct), or reduction of hours, of a covered Employee's employment.

(c) The divorce or legal separation of a covered Employee from the Employee's Spouse. If the Employee reduces or eliminates the Employee's Spouse's Plan coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the Spouse's coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.

(d) A covered Employee's enrollment in any part of the Medicare program.

(e) A Dependent child's ceasing to satisfy the Plan's requirements for a Dependent child (for example, attainment of the maximum age for dependency under the Plan).

If the Qualifying Event causes the covered Employee, or the covered Spouse or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, to cease to be covered under the Plan under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event, the persons losing such coverage become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA if all the other conditions of COBRA are also met. For example, any increase in contribution that must be paid by a covered Employee, or the Spouse, or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, for coverage under the Plan that results from the occurrence of one of the events listed above is a loss of coverage.

The taking of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ("FMLA") does not constitute a Qualifying Event. A Qualifying Event will occur, however, if an Employee does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave and all other COBRA continuation coverage conditions are present. If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Plan provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost.) Note that the covered Employee and family members will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage even if they failed to pay the employee portion of premiums for coverage under the Plan during the FMLA leave.

4. What factors should be considered when determining to elect COBRA continuation coverage?

You should take into account that a failure to continue your group health coverage will affect your rights under federal law. First, you can lose the right to avoid having pre-existing condition exclusions applied by other group health plans if there is more than a 63-day gap in health coverage and election of COBRA continuation coverage may help you avoid such a gap. Second, if you do not elect COBRA continuation coverage and pay the appropriate premiums for the maximum time available to you, you will lose the right to convert to an individual health insurance policy, which does not impose such pre-existing condition exclusions. Finally, you should take into account that you have special enrollment rights under federal law (HIPAA). You have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which you are

otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by your Spouse's employer) within 30 days after Plan coverage ends due to a Qualifying Event listed above. You will also have the same special right at the end of COBRA continuation coverage if you get COBRA continuation coverage for the maximum time available to you.

5. What is the Procedure for Obtaining COBRA Continuation Coverage?

The Plan has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

If Timely Payment is made to the Plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Plan requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Plan's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Plan notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of $50 or 10% of the required amount.

6. What is the Election Period and How Long Must It Last?

The election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan. The election period must begin not later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and must not end before the date that is 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of her or his right to elect COBRA continuation coverage.

Note: If a covered employee who has been terminated or experienced a reduction of hours qualifies for a trade readjustment allowance or alternative trade adjustment assistance under a federal law called the Trade Act of 2002, and the employee and his or her covered dependents have not elected COBRA coverage within the normal election period, a second opportunity to elect COBRA coverage will be made available for themselves and certain family members, but only within a limited period of 60 days or less and only during the six months immediately after their group health plan coverage ended. Any person who qualifies or thinks that he or she and/or his or her family members may qualify for assistance under this special provision should contact the Plan Administrator or its designee for further information.

The Trade Act of 2002 also created a new tax credit for certain TAA-eligible individuals and for certain retired employees who are receiving pension payments from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) (eligible individuals). Under the new tax provisions, eligible individuals can either take a tax credit or get advance payment of 65% of premiums paid for qualified health insurance, including continuation coverage. If you have questions about these new tax provisions, you may call the Health Coverage Tax Credit Consumer Contact Center toll-free at 1-866-628-4282. TTD/TTY callers may call toll-free at 1-866-626-4282. More information about the Trade Act is also available at www.doleta.gov/tradeact.

7. Is a Covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary Responsible for Informing the Plan Administrator of the Occurrence of a Qualifying Event?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator or its designee has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The Employer (if the Employer is not the Plan Administrator) will notify the Plan Administrator or its designee of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

(a) the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment,

(b) death of the employee,

(c) commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the Employer, or

(d) enrollment of the employee in any part of Medicare,

IMPORTANT:

For the other Qualifying Events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you or someone on your behalf must notify the Plan Administrator or its designee in writing within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs, using the procedures specified below. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator or its designee during the 60-day notice period, any spouse or dependent child who loses coverage will not be offered the option to elect continuation coverage. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator or its designee.

NOTICE PROCEDURES:

Any notice that you provide must be ***in writing***. Oral notice, including notice by telephone, is not acceptable. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the person, department or firm listed below, at the following address:

The State of New Hampshire
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan or plans** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(es) of the Qualified Beneficiary(ies)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include **a copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Be aware that there are other notice requirements in other contexts, for example, in order to qualify for a disability extension.

Once the Plan Administrator or its designee receives *timely notice* that a Qualifying Event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each Qualified Beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage for their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. For each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date that plan coverage would otherwise have been lost. If you or your spouse or dependent children do not elect continuation coverage within the 60-day election period described above, the right to elect continuation coverage will be lost.

8. Is a Waiver Before the End of the Election Period Effective to End a Qualified Beneficiary's Election Rights?

If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee, as applicable.

9. Is COBRA coverage available if a Qualified Beneficiary has other group health plan coverage or Medicare?

Qualified Beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage may do so even if they are covered under another group health plan or are entitled to Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA is elected. However, a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA, he or she becomes entitled to Medicare or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage (but only after any applicable preexisting condition exclusions of that other plan have been exhausted or satisfied).

10. When May a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA Continuation Coverage be Terminated?

During the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary may waive COBRA continuation coverage. Except for an interruption of coverage in connection with a waiver, COBRA continuation coverage that has been elected for a Qualified Beneficiary must extend for at least the period beginning on the date of the Qualifying Event and ending not before the earliest of the following dates:

(a) The last day of the applicable maximum coverage period.

(b) The first day for which Timely Payment is not made to the Plan with respect to the Qualified Beneficiary.

(c) The date upon which the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan (including a successor plan) to any employee.

(d) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes covered under any other Plan that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition, other than such an exclusion or limitation that does not apply to, or is satisfied by, the Qualified Beneficiary.

(e) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first enrolls in the Medicare program (either part A or part B, whichever occurs earlier).

(f) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary entitled to a disability extension, the later of:

(1) (i) 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event, or (ii) the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date of a final determination under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act that the disabled Qualified Beneficiary whose disability resulted in the Qualified Beneficiary's entitlement to the disability extension is no longer disabled, whichever is earlier; or

(2) the end of the maximum coverage period that applies to the Qualified Beneficiary without regard to the disability extension.

The Plan can terminate for cause the coverage of a Qualified Beneficiary on the same basis that the Plan terminates for cause the coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries, for example, for the submission of a fraudulent claim.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

11. What Are the Maximum Coverage Periods for COBRA Continuation Coverage?

The maximum coverage periods are based on the type of the Qualifying Event and the status of the Qualified Beneficiary, as shown below.

(a) In the case of a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period ends 18 months after the Qualifying Event if there is not a disability extension and 29 months after the Qualifying Event if there is a disability extension.

(b) In the case of a covered Employee's enrollment in the Medicare program before experiencing a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period for Qualified Beneficiaries other than the covered Employee ends on the later of:

(1) 36 months after the date the covered Employee becomes enrolled in the Medicare program; or

(2) 18 months (or 29 months, if there is a disability extension) after the date of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment.

(c) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary who is a child born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, the maximum coverage period is the maximum coverage period applicable to the Qualifying Event giving rise to the period of COBRA continuation coverage during which the child was born or placed for adoption.

(d) In the case of any other Qualifying Event than that described above, the maximum coverage period ends 36 months after the Qualifying Event.

12. Under What Circumstances Can the Maximum Coverage Period Be Expanded?

If a Qualifying Event that gives rise to an 18-month or 29-month maximum coverage period is followed, within that 18- or 29-month period, by a second Qualifying Event that gives rise to a 36-months maximum coverage period, the original period is expanded to 36 months, but only for individuals who are Qualified Beneficiaries at the time of and with respect to both Qualifying Events. In no circumstance can the COBRA maximum coverage period be expanded to more than 36 months after the date of the first Qualifying Event. The Plan Administrator must be notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee in accordance with the procedures above.

13. How Does a Qualified Beneficiary Become Entitled to a Disability Extension?

A disability extension will be granted if an individual (whether or not the covered Employee) who is a Qualified Beneficiary in connection with the Qualifying Event that is a termination or reduction of hours of a covered Employee's employment, is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. To qualify for the disability extension, the Qualified Beneficiary must also provide the Plan Administrator with notice of the disability determination on a date that is both within 60 days after the date of the determination and before the end of the original 18-month maximum coverage. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee in accordance with the procedures above.

14. Does the Plan Require Payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage?

For any period of COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan, Qualified Beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage may be required to pay up to 102% of the applicable premium and up to 150% of the applicable premium for any expanded period of COBRA continuation coverage covering a disabled Qualified Beneficiary due to a disability extension. Your Plan Administrator will inform you of the cost. The Plan will terminate a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage as of the first day of any period for which timely payment is not made.

15. Must the Plan Allow Payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage to be Made in Monthly Installments?

Yes. The Plan is also permitted to allow for payment at other intervals.

16. What is Timely Payment for payment for COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Timely Payment means a payment made no later than 30 days after the first day of the coverage period. Payment that is made to the Plan by a later date is also considered Timely Payment if either under the terms of the Plan, covered employees or Qualified Beneficiaries are allowed until that later date to pay for their coverage for the period or under the terms of an arrangement between the Employer and the entity that provides Plan benefits on the Employer's behalf, the Employer is allowed until that later date to pay for coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries for the period.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the Plan does not require payment for any period of COBRA continuation coverage for a Qualified Beneficiary earlier than 45 days after the date on which the election of COBRA continuation coverage is made for that Qualified Beneficiary. Payment is considered made on the date on which it is postmarked to the Plan.

If Timely Payment is made to the Plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Plan requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Plan's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Plan notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of $50 or 10% of the required amount.

17. Must a Qualified Beneficiary be Given the Right to Enroll in a Conversion Health Plan at the End of the Maximum Coverage Period for COBRA Continuation Coverage?

If a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage under a group health plan ends as a result of the expiration of the applicable maximum coverage period, the Plan will, during the 180-day period that ends on that expiration date, provide the Qualified Beneficiary with the option of enrolling under a conversion health plan if such an option is otherwise generally available to similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries under the Plan. If such a conversion option is not otherwise generally available, it need not be made available to Qualified Beneficiaries.

18. How is My Participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account Affected?

You can elect to continue your participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account for the remainder of the Plan Year, subject to the following conditions. You may only continue to participate in the Health Flexible Spending Account if you have elected to contribute more money than you have taken out in claims. For example, if you elected to contribute an annual amount of $500 and, at the time you terminate employment, you have contributed $300 but only claimed $150, you may elect to continue coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account. If you elect to continue coverage, then you would be able to continue to receive your health reimbursements up to the $500. However, you must continue to pay for the coverage, just as the money has been taken out of your paycheck, but on an after-tax basis. The Plan can also charge you an extra amount (as explained above for other health benefits) to provide this benefit.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Plan Administrator or its designee. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website at www.dol.gov/ebsa.

KEEP YOUR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator or its designee.

XI
SUMMARY

The money you earn is important to you and your family. You need it to pay your bills, enjoy recreational activities and save for the future. Our flexible benefits plan will help you keep more of the money you earn by lowering the amount of taxes you pay. The Plan is the result of our continuing efforts to find ways to help you get the most for your earnings.

If you have any questions, please contact the Administrator.