

Dear employer:

On March 6, 2024, the PEBA Board of Directors voted unanimously to amend the definition of "Employee" for the purposes of eligibility to participate in the state insurance benefits program. This amendment allows councils of participating counties and municipalities to exercise a one-time, irrevocable option to exclude their councilmembers from the definition of "Employee."

Councils of currently participating counties and municipalities must **submit an addendum to their participation resolution** to PEBA no later than July 1, 2024, indicating whether their councilmembers will remain eligible Employees in the state insurance benefits program or if they will be excluded.

If you have already submitted an addendum, you can disregard this email.

It is important to understand:

- This election applies to all members of the council and is irrevocable for the duration of the county or municipality's period of coverage in the state insurance benefits program.
- This election does not affect insurance eligibility for any other employees of the county or municipality other than councilmembers and does not apply to councilmembers' participation in the South Carolina Retirement Systems.
- If the council elects to exclude councilmembers from coverage, currently enrolled councilmembers will lose all coverage under the state insurance benefits program on the effective date of the addendum.
- Any loss of coverage due to this election is not a Qualifying Event under COBRA, and councilmembers who lose coverage will not be offered or eligible to enroll in COBRA coverage.

If you have questions about this addendum, email Insurance Operations at **EmployerAudits@peba.sc.gov**.

You must submit an addendum to PEBA via email at **EmployerAudits@peba.sc.gov** no later than July 1, 2024.