



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Number 1 (2006)
May 8, 2006

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL
MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO EXTEND SAME SEX DOMESTIC PARTNER
BENEFITS TO ALL MERIT COMPENSATION EMPLOYEES IN THE AGENCIES
UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S JURISDICTION**

Commencing July 1, 2006, the State of Illinois will, pursuant to its collective bargaining agreements, extend benefits to same sex domestic partners of collective bargaining unit state employees. Under the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971, the Director of Central Management Services has the discretion to extend any benefit received by a State employee pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement to non collective bargaining unit employees. 5 ILCS 375/7.1.

Therefore, I hereby order the Director of Central Management Services to extend all the benefits available to collective bargaining unit employees to all merit compensation State employees in the State Agencies under my jurisdiction. For the first time in our state's history, these benefits are available to same sex domestic partnerships. Further, the Director of Central Management Services shall advise by letter each State Constitutional Officer, the State universities, the General Assembly, and all other State Agencies that do not fall directly under the Governor's jurisdiction, of their option to extend benefits to their employees' same sex domestic partners. Upon confirmation from each of these entities that it wishes to extend benefits to its employees' same sex domestic partners, the Director shall extend such benefits.

The enrollment period for these newly extended benefits commences immediately and ends May 31, 2006, unless the Director, in his discretion, extends the enrollment period.

For the purposes of this benefit extension, "Qualified Domestic Partners" are defined as follows:

An adult, 19 years of age or older, of the same sex as the State member, with whom the State member is living in an exclusive, committed relationship for a period of at least one year and who shares a mutual obligation of support for the basic living expenses with the intent of the relationship to last indefinitely. The domestic partner cannot be related to

the member by blood to a degree that would prohibit marriage in the State of Illinois nor can the domestic partner or the member be married to another person. A member claiming a domestic partner must provide documentation as requested by the Department and file with the Department an affidavit of domestic partnership on a form created by the Department.

This Administrative Order is effective immediately. Any inquiries regarding this Order should be directed to the Department of Central Management Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor