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Kodak retirees would benefit from proposed change in Healthy NY program

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New York would extend its state-offered Healthy NY health insurance coverage to retirees who lose any employer-sponsored coverage under new legislation proposed by State Sen. Joseph Robach, R-Greece, and Assemblyman Bill Reilich, R-Greece.

The proposal comes as tens of thousands of Rochester-area Eastman Kodak Co. retirees are worrying about just that possibility as the company is in the midst of its Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Kodak's current woes inspired the legislation, according to Robach's office. Kodak has pointed to its retirees as one of its larger financial hurdles. And the company has been making cuts in what it spends on such coverage, from \$199 million in 2008 to \$154 million just two years later.

The bill would specifically target retirees who are younger than 65 and thus not eligible for Medicare.

Healthy NY benefits cover such expenses as inpatient and outpatient hospitalization, preventative health offerings and emergency care.

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