

SENATE BILL NO. 15

BY SENATOR MILLIGAN

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:81(O) and (Z) and R.S. 42:851(E)(2) and to enact R.S. 42:851(U), relative to group health insurance for public school employees; to provide relative to effective dates of coverage for employees of public elementary and secondary school systems during a disaster or emergency; to provide for application and rules promulgation; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:81(O) and (Z) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§81. General powers of local public school boards

* * *

O.(1) ~~By not later than the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, each~~ **Each** city, parish, or other local public school board shall adopt policies and procedures providing leave with pay for any school system employee who is an elected member of the ~~Board of Trustees~~ **board of trustees** of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana or the ~~Board of Trustees~~ **board of trustees** of the Louisiana School ~~Employees~~ **Employees'** Retirement System, an elected or appointed member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or an appointed member of any task force, commission, or other advisory body established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education so that such employee may attend meetings of the entity and any committees thereof on which the employee serves.

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Z.**(1)** Each city, parish, or other local school board shall offer its employees the opportunity to participate in the Louisiana Public Employees Deferred

1 Compensation Plan as established by R.S. 42:1301 et seq. The requirement of this
2 ~~Subsection Paragraph~~ does not prohibit a school board from offering its employees
3 the opportunity to participate in other plans established pursuant to Section 457 of
4 the Internal Revenue Code.

5 **(2) Each city, parish, or other local school board to which R.S. 42:851**
6 **applies shall provide the health insurance coverage required pursuant to R.S.**
7 **42:851(U).**

8 Section 2. R.S. 42:851(E)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:851(U)
9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §851. Authority for employee benefit programs; payroll deduction for payment of
11 premiums

12 * * *

13 E. * * *

14 (2) The Office of Group Benefits shall promulgate all rules necessary to carry
15 out the provisions of Subsections A through E **and U** of this Section.

16 * * *

17 **U.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any rule or**
18 **regulation to the contrary, health insurance coverage shall begin concurrent**
19 **with employment by a public elementary or secondary school system if all of the**
20 **following apply on the employee's first date of employment with that employer:**

21 **(a) The school system is in an area that is the subject of a gubernatorially**
22 **or presidentially declared disaster or emergency.**

23 **(b) The declaration of disaster or emergency specifies that the disaster**
24 **or emergency involves risks to the health or well-being of any individual who**
25 **engages in certain activities.**

26 **(c) Among the activities posing a risk to an individual's health or**
27 **well-being are activities integral to services to the school system that the**
28 **employee is required to perform.**

29 **(2) The premium for the first month's insurance shall be paid**
30 **immediately. The school system shall pay the employer contribution. The**

1 **employee contribution may be paid by the school system or the employee. If the**
 2 **school system pays the employee contribution, the school system shall be**
 3 **reimbursed by a deduction from the employee's wages.**

4 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 8 effective on the day following such approval.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____