

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 32 (SB 15)

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Milligan

Prior law provided for the general powers and duties of local public school boards, including mandates related to employee benefits.

New law retains prior law and requires each city, parish, or other local school board covered by present group insurance law to provide the health insurance coverage required pursuant to new law.

Prior law provided for the Office of Group Benefits (OGB). Authorized La. state agencies, public higher education entities, and public elementary and secondary school systems to provide group health insurance for their employees and the employees' dependents.

New law retains prior law.

New law allows this authorized group health insurance to be provided through private contracts or self-funded programs, subject to OGB approval. Specifies that a city or parish school board may utilize a private contract or self-funded program without OGB approval. Requires employee and retiree eligibility provisions in any private contract or self-funded program to be identical to eligibility provided in OGB programs.

New law retains prior law.

New law, applicable only if certain criteria are met, requires every public elementary or secondary school system to provide employee health insurance coverage beginning on the first date of employment.

New law first-day coverage applies only if, on that date:

- (1) The school system is an area that is the subject of a gubernatorially or presidentially declared disaster or emergency.
- (2) The declaration of disaster or emergency specifies that the disaster or emergency involves risks to the health or well-being of individuals engaged in certain activities.
- (3) Among the risky activities are activities integral to the job the employee is required to perform for the school system.

Prior law required OGB to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of prior law.

New law retains prior law and requires OGB to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of new law.

Effective upon signature of the governor (October 28, 2020).

(Amends R.S. 17:81(O) and (Z) and R.S. 42:851(E)(2); adds R.S. 42:851(U))