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## DIGEST

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Hutter

HB No. 18

**Abstract:** Allows a member of any state or statewide public retirement system on involuntary furlough or leave without pay due to a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency to purchase credit for the period of furlough or such leave by paying the required employer and employee contributions to the system, subject to certain limitations.

Present law (R.S. 11:163(A)(1)) provides that any member of a state or statewide public retirement system who is involuntarily furloughed without pay due to the temporary closure of his employer shall be entitled to purchase service and salary credit for each day of service that he was furloughed if such service was not credited to his account. Specifies that there shall be no duplication of credit under the provisions of present law.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally includes in such provisions any member who is involuntarily furloughed without pay or placed on leave without pay due to a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency.

Present law (R.S. 11:163(C)(1)) provides that any purchase of credit pursuant to present law shall be made by paying to the system an amount sufficient to offset any liability to the system, calculated on an actuarial basis in accordance with other provisions of present law (R.S. 11:158).

Proposed law retains present law for members included in present law and proposed law (members involuntarily furloughed or on leave without pay due to a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency) who purchase credit pursuant to present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 11:163(A)(2)) additionally entitles any member of a state or statewide public retirement system who is involuntarily furloughed without pay or on leave without pay on or after August 29, 2005, due to a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency to purchase service and salary credit for each day of service during the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006, that he was furloughed or on such leave if such service was not credited to his account. Prohibits any duplication of credit under the provisions of present law and proposed law.

Proposed law (R.S. 11:163(C)(2)) additionally requires that any member who is involuntarily furloughed without pay or on leave without pay on or after August 29, 2005, as a result of a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency, who purchases credit pursuant to proposed law (R.S. 11:163(A)(2)) to pay to the system the employee and employer contributions which would be remitted to the system by his employer if not for the involuntary furlough or leave without pay. Requires that such payments be made at the same time as such contributions would be due

to the system if paid by the employer. Proposed law further provides that, if the member's contributions are delinquent, his delinquent payment shall be treated as though it were a delinquent payment from the employer pursuant to present law (R.S. 11:281), which requires payment of interest on such delinquent contributions. Specifies, however, that any contributions which would have been due before the effective date of proposed law shall be treated as timely if received by the system on or before the date on which contributions are due for December 2005.

Proposed law authorizes the board of trustees of each state and statewide retirement system to adopt rules to implement proposed law relative to purchase of credit by payment of employer and employee contributions.

Provides that the provisions of proposed law are remedial, curative, and procedural and are to be applied retroactively as well as prospectively.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 11:163(A) and (C))