

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

BY REPRESENTATIVE ALARIO AND SENATOR HEITMEIER

INSURANCE/GROUP-STATE: Provides for certain benefits offered through the Office of Group Benefits programs for employees who were furloughed or terminated as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Item #20)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:851(E)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (M)(1) and to enact
3 R.S. 42:851(D)(4) and (M)(4), relative to Office of Group Benefits programs; to
4 prohibit any reduction in the minimum state contribution for premium payments for
5 certain employees affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita under certain
6 circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 42:851(E)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (M)(1) are hereby
9 amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:851(D)(4) and (M)(4) are hereby enacted to read as
10 follows:

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

13 * * *

14 D.

15 * * *

16 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any lapse in
17 participation for employees furloughed or terminated as the result of Hurricanes
18 Katrina and Rita and subsequently rehired between August 30, 2005, and December
19 31, 2006, shall not reduce the state minimum contribution.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Alario

HB No. 97

Abstract: Prohibits reduction in the minimum state contribution for premium payments for certain employees affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita who are subsequently rehired.

Present law provides for the minimum state contribution toward premiums payable by retirees.

Proposed law retains present law and prohibits any reduction in the state minimum contribution as a result of any lapse in participation for employees furloughed or terminated as the result of Hurricane Katrina or Rita and subsequently rehired between August 30, 2005, and December 31, 2006.

Present law provides circumstances where state continues to contribute its portion of the premium or charges due where an employee is granted a leave of absence without pay.

Proposed law provides that an employee who is granted a leave of absence without pay for a reason other than service-related injury may continue participation in the Office of Group Benefits program for a period not to exceed 12 months upon the employee's payment of the full premium or charges due.

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

(Amends R.S. 42:851(E)(1)(intro. para.) and (M)(1); Adds R.S. 42:851(D)(4) and (M)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill.

1. Clarifies that employee must be rehired between Aug. 30, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2006.
2. Provides employee who is granted leave of absence without pay for any reason besides service-related injury must pay the full premium or charges.