

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

SENATE BILL NO. 30

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER AND REPRESENTATIVE ALARIO

GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM. 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. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 42:851(E)(1) and (M)(1) and to
3 enact R.S. 42:851(D)(4) and (M)(4), relative to Office of Group Benefits programs;
4 to prohibit any reduction in the minimum state contribution for premium payments
5 for 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(D)(4) and (M)(4) are hereby enacted and the introductory
9 paragraph of R.S. 42:851(E)(1) and (M)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted 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**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

Heitmeier (SB 30)

Present law provides for the minimum 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 from August 30, 2005, through December 31, 2006, for an employee furloughed or terminated as the result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita who is subsequently rehired.

Present law provides that where an employee is granted a leave of absence for a service related injury or at the request of the agency, or is disabled under the worker's compensation, he may continue participation in Office of Group Benefits program for a period not to exceed 12 months. The state will continue to contribute its portion of the premiums.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that an employee who is granted leave of absence for any other reason may continue participation in the Office of Group Benefits program for a period not to exceed 12 months if the employee pays the full premium or charges due.

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

(Amends 42:851(E)(1), (M)(1); adds R.S. 42:851(D)(4) and (M)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Insurance to the original bill.

1. Allows an employee who is granted leave of absence without pay due to reasons other than work related injury to continue to participate in the Office of Group Benefits program for up to 12 months upon the employee's payment of the full premium or charges due.