

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 97 by Representative Alario

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)

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Clarifies that state agencies can pay the employer portion of the premium for those employees who are on leave without pay for military service or Family Medical Leave Act.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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, primarily service-related injuries, 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 retains present law and provides that the state may contribute its portion of the premium and charges due for an employee who is granted a leave of absence without pay due to active military duty or under the provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, hereinafter "FMLA". If leave without pay is granted for any reason other than service-related injury, active military duty or federal FMLA, the employee 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))