

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

ACT No. 57

HOUSE BILL NO. 97 (DUPLICATE OF SENATE BILL NO. 30)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ALARIO AND SENATOR HEITMEIER

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

* * *

D.

* * *

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

E.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part to the contrary, for any person who is an active employee as defined by R.S. 42:808 and who does not participate in the Office of Group Benefits program provided by this Part before January 1, 2002, but subsequently enrolls in the program, or for any person who is hired on or after January 1, 2002, who meets the definition of employee as provided

1 by ~~Subsection F of this Section~~ R.S. 42:808 the state contribution of the total
2 premium shall, upon retirement, be:

3 * * *

4 M.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law or any rule or regulation to the
5 contrary, the state of Louisiana shall continue to contribute its portion of the
6 premium or charges due under this Section for which an employee is granted leave
7 of absence without pay due to a service-related injury ~~or at the request of the agency~~
8 for a period not to exceed twelve months. The state may contribute its portion of the
9 premium and charges due under this Section for which an employee is granted leave
10 of absence without pay due to active military duty or is granted leave without pay
11 under the provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

12 * * *

13 (4) An employee who is granted leave of absence without pay for any reason
14 other than those enumerated above may continue participation in the Office of Group
15 Benefits program for a period not to exceed twelve months upon the employee's
16 payment of the full premium or charges due.

17 * * *

18 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
19 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
20 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
21 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
22 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____