

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

New law retains existing 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.

Existing law provides circumstances, primarily service-related injuries, where the state continues to contribute its portion of the premium or charges due where an employee is granted a leave of absence without pay.

New law retains existing 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 (December 6, 2005).

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