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

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DIGEST

SB 348 Original

2022 Regular Session

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Present law provides for the creation of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).

Proposed law retains present law and creates a group benefits appeals subcommittee of the JLCB which shall review appeals submitted to the subcommittee under certain conditions provided for in proposed law. The subcommittee, by its own rules, motions, or resolutions, shall provide for the size, membership, appointment, all administrative matters, and the delegated powers and duties of the subcommittee.

Present law authorizes the Office of Group Benefits to establish benefit plans, under the direction of the commissioner of administration, for the life, health, and other benefits. This duty includes the responsibility to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the plans for benefits and coverages available for employees in all parts of the state are comparable with respect to coverages offered.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the Office of Group Benefits to establish an appeals process for the denial of health benefits. Proposed law provides that the appeal process, to the greatest extent practicable, shall be comparable to appeal processes offered by insurance coverage in Louisiana. The appeal process shall be subject to review and final approval by the appropriate standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over review of agency rules by the Office of Group Benefits as designated by present law, or the subcommittees on oversight of such standing committees, and shall be submitted no later than July 1, 2022. The Office of Group Benefits is authorized to use the emergency rulemaking process to meet the July 1 deadline.

Proposed law provides that any appeal for the request of benefits for the provision of health care that have been denied but are certified by a medical doctor as necessary for the immediate provision of life-saving measures shall be reviewed for approval by the group benefits appeal subcommittee of the JLCB within 10 days of the receipt of the appeal.

Effective July 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 42:802(B)(6); adds R.S. 24:653(H)(3))