

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 554

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM. Provides with respect to the Office of Group Benefits.
(8/1/18)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:805(D), 807, 808(E), 809, 857, and 883(A), to enact R.S.
3 42:808(F), and 882(D)(3), and to repeal R.S. 42:804, 854(A) and (B), and 855, and
4 R.S. 22:1002, relative to the Office of Group Benefits; to provide for coverage of
5 dependents; to eliminate certain requirements regarding fee schedules and funding;
6 to authorize the office to rescind, cancel, or discontinue coverage; to clarify the
7 extent of payroll deduction authority; to authorize the office to impose surcharges
8 on enrollees; to provide for board membership in certain circumstances; and to
9 provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 42:805(D), 807, 808(E), 809, 857, and 883(A) are hereby amended
12 and reenacted and R.S. 42:808(F) and 882(D)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §805. Collection and deposit of contributions

14 * * *

15 D. ~~At~~ **(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection,**
16 employer and employee contributions for the payment of premiums for group
17 benefits for state employees contracted for under the provisions of this Chapter shall

1 be deposited directly with the office **or its designated third-party administrator.**

2 The office shall pay all monies for such benefits as they become due and payable.

3 **(2) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to either of the**
4 **following:**

5 **(a) Any individual Medicare marketplace health reimbursement**
6 **arrangement contracted by the office for Medicare-eligible enrollees.**

7 **(b) Health plans administered by Louisiana State University and**
8 **Agricultural and Mechanical College.**

9 * * *

10 §807. ~~Loss of eligibility~~ **Retroactive cancellation of coverage**

11 ~~Any person convicted of fraudulently obtaining funds from the Office of~~
12 ~~Group Benefits, including but not limited to any person who has been convicted~~
13 ~~under R.S. 14:26, R.S. 14:27, R.S. 14:67, or R.S. 14:133, shall immediately lose~~
14 ~~eligibility for coverage under both the life insurance plan and the health and accident~~
15 ~~insurance plan of the Office of Group Benefits.~~

16 **A. The office is authorized to retroactively cancel coverage in programs**
17 **offered through the office in the following instances:**

18 **(1) To the extent the cancellation of coverage is attributable to a failure**
19 **of the enrollee to timely pay required premiums or contributions toward the**
20 **cost of coverage.**

21 **(2) The cancellation of coverage is initiated by the enrollee or dependent.**

22 **B. When the office retroactively cancels coverage pursuant to this**
23 **Section, the enrollee shall be liable to the office for all benefits paid by the office**
24 **on behalf of the enrollee and dependents after the effective date of rescission or**
25 **cancellation of coverage.**

26 * * *

27 §808. Eligibility in group programs

28 * * *

29 E. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, ~~any person with a~~

1 ~~developmental disability who acquired such disability prior to attaining the age of~~
2 ~~twenty-one, with one parent whose coverage of such person was terminated as a~~
3 ~~result of lost employment of the parent and one parent who is an employee, as~~
4 ~~defined in Paragraphs (A)(1) and(3) of this Section, participating in life, health, or~~
5 ~~other programs sponsored by the Office of Group Benefits, shall be covered as a~~
6 ~~dependent of such parent participating in life, health, or other programs sponsored~~
7 ~~by the Office of Group Benefits, regardless of the age of the person with a~~
8 ~~developmental disability. **and in particular the provisions of R.S. 22:1001, 1003,**~~
9 ~~**and 1003.1, the Office of Group Benefits is authorized to offer group insurance**~~
10 ~~**coverage to the following dependents of an enrollee:**~~

11 ~~**(1) The spouse of the enrollee, as defined by the office.**~~

12 ~~**(2) A child of the enrollee, until the end of the month the child attains the**~~
13 ~~**age of twenty-six, unless coverage is terminated earlier as provided in this**~~
14 ~~**Section.**~~

15 ~~**(3) For purposes of this Section, "child" means:**~~

16 ~~**(a) The issue of a marriage of the enrollee.**~~

17 ~~**(b) A natural child of the enrollee.**~~

18 ~~**(c) A legally adopted child of the enrollee or a child placed for adoption**~~
19 ~~**with the enrollee.**~~

20 ~~**(d) The child of a male enrollee, if a court of competent jurisdiction has**~~
21 ~~**issued an order of filiation declaring the paternity of the enrollee for the child**~~
22 ~~**or the enrollee has formally acknowledged the child.**~~

23 ~~**(e) The issue of a previous marriage or a natural or legally adopted child**~~
24 ~~**of the enrollee's legal spouse, hereinafter "stepchild", which stepchild has not**~~
25 ~~**been adopted by the enrollee and for whom the enrollee does not have**~~
26 ~~**court-ordered legal custody, until the earliest of:**~~

27 ~~**(i) The end of the month the enrollee is no longer married to the**~~
28 ~~**stepchild's parent.**~~

29 ~~**(ii) The end of the month of the death of the enrollee's spouse who is the**~~

1 stepchild's parent.

2 (iii) The end of the month the stepchild attains the age of twenty-six.

3 (f) A grandchild in the court-ordered legal custody of and residing with
4 the grandparent enrollee, until the end of the month the grandchild attains the
5 age of twenty-six. For purposes of this Section, "grandchild" means a child of
6 a child of the enrollee.

7 (g) A dependent for whom the enrollee has court-ordered legal custody
8 or court-ordered legal guardianship but who is not a child or grandchild of the
9 enrollee until the end of the month the custody or guardianship order expires
10 or the end of the month the dependent attains the age of eighteen, whichever is
11 earlier.

12 F.(1) Attainment of the respective limiting age of a child or grandchild
13 shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child or grandchild if the
14 child or grandchild became incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason
15 of physical or mental disability prior to attaining the respective limiting age,
16 provided that before the child or grandchild reaches the limiting age, but no
17 earlier than six months prior thereto, an application for continued coverage is
18 filed with the office on a form designated by the office, and the application is
19 subsequently approved. This application shall be accompanied by an attestation
20 from the dependent's attending physician setting forth the specific physical or
21 mental disability and certifying that the child or grandchild is incapable of
22 self-sustaining employment by reason of that disability. The office may require
23 additional medical or other supporting documentation regarding the disability
24 to process the application.

25 (2) After the initial approval, the office may require the submission of
26 additional medical or other supporting documentation substantiating the
27 continuance of the disability, but not more frequently than annually, as a
28 precondition to continued coverage.

29 §809. Payroll deductions for payment of premiums, surcharges, and other

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voluntary contributions

State boards, commissions, municipalities, and other public bodies may deduct from the employee's pay, salary, or compensation, such parts of the premiums, **surcharges, and other voluntary contributions** for life, health, or other benefit programs offered by the office as are payable by the employee and as may be authorized in writing by the employee.

* * *

§857. Authorization for surcharge

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule or regulation to the contrary, the Office of Group Benefits may impose a surcharge, payable ~~solo~~ by the participant employer **or an enrollee**, regardless of the source of funding, upon any class of employees or retirees.

B.(1) In the event the participant employer does not pay the surcharge by the date it is due, the office shall remove that participant employer and all of its employees and retirees from participation in the Office of Group Benefits programs, effective on the last day of the month in which the surcharge was due.

(2) This ~~Section~~ **Subsection** shall apply to local school boards only in the event that funds are appropriated by the legislature for the payment of the surcharge applicable to the local school boards.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule or regulation to the contrary, in the event an enrollee does not pay an enrollee surcharge or portion of surcharge by the date it is due, the office shall remove that enrollee and his dependents from participation in the program for which the surcharge was applicable, effective on the last day of the month in which the surcharge was due.

* * *

§882. Composition of board

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D. Vacancies.

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(3) In the event that no person qualifies to run for one or more elected positions pursuant to Paragraph (A)(4) of this Section, the remaining members of the board shall fill the position by appointment. The board shall promulgate rules, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the provisions of this Paragraph.

* * *

§883. Officers; oath; meetings; quorum; minutes; reports; compensation

A.(1) At the first meeting held in each **fiscal** year the board shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman until a new chairman is elected. At the same meeting, the board shall elect from its members a vice chairman to preside at meetings in the absence of the chairman and a secretary who shall be responsible for keeping the records and documents of the board.

(2) In the event of a vacancy in the office of chairman, vice chairman, or secretary, the board shall elect a member to serve in such capacity until the first meeting in the following **fiscal** year.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 42:804, 854(A) and (B), and 855 and R.S. 22:1002 are hereby repealed.

The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Cooper. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

DIGEST

SB 554 Reengrossed 2018 Regular Session Claitor

Present law requires employer and employee contributions for payment of premiums for group benefits to be deposited directly with the Office of Group Benefits (OGB).

Proposed law retains present law and requires employer and employee contributions for payment of premiums for group benefits to be deposited directly with OGB or its third-party administrator.

Excludes from the deposit requirement premiums associated with either of the following:

- (1) Any individual Medicare marketplace health reimbursement arrangement contracted by OGB for Medicare-eligible enrollees.

- (2) Health plans administered by LSU.

Present law requires the loss of eligibility for coverage under both the life insurance plan and the health and accident insurance plan by any person convicted of fraudulently obtaining funds from OGB.

Proposed law permits OGB to retroactively cancel coverage in the following instances:

- (1) To the extent the cancellation of coverage is attributable to a failure by the enrollee to timely pay required premiums or contributions toward the cost of coverage.
- (2) The cancellation of coverage is initiated by the enrollee or dependent.

Proposed law provides the enrollee whose coverage is cancelled pursuant to proposed law is liable to OGB for all benefits paid by the office on behalf of the enrollee and dependents after the effective date of rescission or cancellation of coverage.

Present law requires coverage of any person with a developmental disability who acquired such disability prior to attaining the age of 21, with one parent whose coverage of such person was terminated as a result of lost employment of the parent and one parent who is an employee.

Proposed law permits OGB to offer group insurance coverage to the following dependents of an enrollee:

- (1) The spouse of the enrollee.
- (2) A child or grandchild of the enrollee, until the end of the month the child reaches the age of 26, unless coverage is terminated earlier.
- (3) A dependent for whom the enrollee has court-ordered legal custody or court-ordered legal guardianship until the dependent turns 18.

Present law permits OGB participating employers to deduct from the employee's pay the employee's portion of the premiums for benefit programs.

Proposed law retains present law and allows deduction of surcharges and other voluntary contributions authorized by the employee in writing.

Present law permits OGB to impose a surcharge, payable solely by the participant employer, upon any class of employees or retirees. Further requires OGB to remove the participant employer and all of its employees and retirees from participation in OGB programs for failure to pay the surcharge.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes OGB to impose a surcharge on an enrollee and to remove an enrollee and his dependents for failing to pay the surcharge.

Present law provides for filling vacancies on the OGB Policy and Planning Board.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the board to fill a vacancy by appointment in the event no person qualifies to run for one or more elected positions. Requires the board to promulgate rules to implement proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 42:805(D), 807, 808(E), 809, 857, 883(A); adds R.S. 42:808(F) and 882(D)(3); repeals R.S. 42:804, 854(A) and (B), and 855 and R.S. 22:1002)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Removes OGB's ability to retroactively cancel any health or life insurance coverage of an enrollee or of his dependents if the enrollee engages in an act, practice, or omission that, in the opinion of OGB, constitutes fraud.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.