

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 116

BY SENATOR TALBOT

GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM. Abolishes the Group Benefits Estimating Conference.  
(8/1/20)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 42:881 and R.S. 46:802(B)(7) and to repeal R.S. 39:21.3(G), relative to the Group Benefits Estimating Conference; to abolish the Group Benefits Estimating Conference; to repeal the duties and membership of the Group Benefits Estimating Conference; to remove references to the Group Benefits Estimating Conference; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:881 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§881. Establishment of the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board

~~A.~~ There is hereby established the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board within the Office of Group Benefits. The board shall review and recommend life and health benefit programs offered to eligible employees, including the proposed rate structure ~~which~~ that will support the life and health benefit plan. At least annually, the chief executive officer shall submit any proposed changes to the rate structure and the associated life and health benefits programs to the board to review and recommend prior to the final adoption of the plan. The plan submitted by the chief executive officer shall include an estimate of the costs and an estimated rate structure

1 for a three-year period. The board shall submit a written report to the commissioner  
2 of administration, the chief executive officer of the Office of Group Benefits, and the  
3 appropriate legislative oversight committees, including any comments and  
4 recommendations regarding modifications to such proposed benefit plans and the  
5 associated rates.

6 ~~B. The Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board shall use any official~~  
7 ~~information provided by the Group Benefits Estimating Conference as may be~~  
8 ~~necessary in the review of benefits plans and proposed rate structures required by~~  
9 ~~this Section.~~

10 Section 2. R.S. 46:802(B)(7) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §802. Powers and duties; Office of Group Benefits

12 \* \* \*

13 B. In addition, the office shall have the following powers and duties:

14 \* \* \*

15 (7) Subject to the board's review and recommendation, to establish premium  
16 rates, under the direction of the commissioner of administration and in consultation  
17 with actuaries for the life, health, and other benefit programs offered through the  
18 office. ~~The commissioner of administration, the chief executive officer of the Office~~  
19 ~~of Group Benefits, and the Policy and Planning Board shall also use any official~~  
20 ~~information developed, gathered, and presented to the parties by the Group Benefits~~  
21 ~~Estimating Conference in the development of premium rates.~~

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 3. R.S. 39:21.3(G) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Lann.

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#### DIGEST

SB 116 Original

2020 Regular Session

Talbot

Present law (R.S. 39:21.3) creates the Group Benefits Estimating Conference for the purpose of developing or gathering official information relating to group health and life insurance planning, premium rates, and budgeting as is determined by the conference principals to be needed for the state planning and budgeting system. Present law further provides for the principals of the Group Benefits Estimating Conference as follows:

- (1) A member of the professional staff of the office of the governor to be appointed by the governor.
- (2) A member of the professional staff of the division of administration to be appointed by the commissioner of administration.
- (3) A member of the professional staff of the legislature with fiscal expertise to be appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (4) A member of the professional staff of the legislature with fiscal experience to be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (5) A member of the professional staff of the Office of Group Benefits with fiscal experience to be appointed by the commissioner of administration.
- (6) An individual with a minimum of five years professional experience or fiscal expertise in the industries of health insurance, actuarial services, financial services, or banking to be selected by the other principals from a list of no more than two names submitted by each of the following: the commissioner of insurance, the commissioner of financial institutions, and the legislative auditor.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board to use any official information provided by the Group Benefits Estimating Conference as may be necessary in the review of benefits plans and proposed rate structures required by present law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires the commissioner of administration, the chief executive officer of the Office of Group Benefits, and the Policy and Planning Board to use any official information developed, gathered, and presented to the parties by the Group Benefits Estimating Conference in the development of premium rates.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 42:881 and R.S. 46:802(B)(7); repeals R.S. 39:21.3(G))