

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 169

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUILLORY

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Office of Group Benefits to study the interpretation that results in retired employees of school systems who are subsequently elected to their local school boards having to pay substantial increases in their group health insurance premiums and to report to the House Committee on Appropriations by November 1, 2012.

WHEREAS, many retired educators throughout the state of Louisiana have been elected to public school boards; and

WHEREAS, for retirees who are covered by Medicare Parts A and B and the Office of Group Benefits (OGB), Medicare is the primary medical payer and OGB is secondary, which results in a reduced premium rate for such retirees; and

WHEREAS, for retirees who are eligible for coverage by virtue of being current employees of the school system, Medicare becomes secondary under the current "working agent" rule and OGB becomes primary, which results in a higher premium structure for such retirees; and

WHEREAS, officials responsible for implementation of Medicare Parts A and B have interpreted federal law and regulations to conclude that retired employees of school systems who are subsequently elected to their school boards are "full-time employees" of the school systems falling within the "current employment status"; and

WHEREAS, this interpretation has been forwarded to OGB, which has established a higher premium structure for retired employees/school board members reflecting the primary payer status of OGB; and

WHEREAS, retired educators should be encouraged to seek election to their local school boards, and such significant increases in premiums for group health insurance will discourage them from doing so.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Office of Group Benefits to study the interpretation that results in retired employees of school systems who are subsequently elected to their local school boards having to pay substantial increases in their group health insurance premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Group Benefits is hereby authorized and directed to report the results of this study to the House Committee on Appropriations by November 1, 2012.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES