

SENATE, No. 393

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 18, 1996

By Senator BYRANT

1 AN ACT concerning the eligibility of certain employees of public  
2 employers other than the State for coverage under the New Jersey  
3 State Health Benefits Program and supplementing P.L.1961, c.49  
4 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.).  
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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:  
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9 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Health  
10 Benefits Act."  
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12 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5 of P.L.1964, c.125  
13 (C.52:14-17.36) or any other law to the contrary, for the purposes of  
14 determining eligibility for coverage under the health benefits program  
15 established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.27),  
16 an employee of an employer participating in the program who appears  
17 on a regular payroll and receives a salary or wages for an average of  
18 at least 20 hours per week shall be deemed to be a full-time employee  
19 of that employer.  
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21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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24 STATEMENT  
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26 This bill provides that an employee of a local government employer  
27 that participates in the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program who  
28 appears on a regular payroll and receives a salary or wages for an  
29 average of 20 hours per week shall be deemed to be a full-time  
30 employee of that employer for the purpose of establishing eligibility  
31 for coverage under the program.

32 This 20-hour requirement for full-time status was embodied in a  
33 regulation (N.J.A.C.17:9-4.6) of the State Health Benefits Commission  
34 prior to September 21, 1995. On that date, the commission adopted  
35 an amendment to the regulation permitting local employers to establish  
36 a higher standard for full-time status. Thus this legislation would

1 reverse the commission's action and restore the requirement to its  
2 previous form.

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7 The "Family Health Benefits Act"; reestablishes eligibility of certain  
8 local government employees for coverage under SHBP.