



1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 117

February 18, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives HARSDFORF, DOBYNS, LADWIG, BOYLE, SCHAFER, F. LASEE, R. YOUNG, SERATTI, BALDWIN, BOCK, MUSSER, HANSON, BAUMGART, BRANDEMUEHL, RYBA, POWERS, NOTESTEIN and ROBSON, cosponsored by Senators ROSENZWEIG, CLAUSING and RUDE. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 40.51 (2) of the statutes; **relating to:** the eligibility for group
2 health insurance for state employes participating under the Wisconsin
3 retirement system.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a limited term employe or a part-time employe who is eligible for participation in the Wisconsin retirement system (WRS) is also eligible for group health insurance benefits. Such a limited term employe must have an expected duration of employment of one year or more and such a part-time employe must work at least one-third of what is considered full-time employment. An employer of such limited term employes and part-time employes who work less than half-time is required to pay 50% of the contribution for health insurance costs that the employer pays for a full-time employe under the WRS. Currently, limited term employes and part-time employes who fail to elect to receive health care coverage when first eligible or when first eligible for the employer contribution may only later elect to receive health care coverage under the standard health insurance plan (a fee-for-service plan) with a 6-month waiting period for preexisting health conditions.

This bill changes current law to provide an additional eligibility enrollment period for health care coverage. This period is the time prior to when there is an increase in the employer's contribution towards the cost of health care coverage occurring when a limited term employe or part-time employe who is eligible for group health care insurance becomes a full-time employe under the WRS.

