

in 1 or more health benefits plans shall automatically enroll new full-time employees in one of the plans offered (subject to any waiting period authorized by law) and to continue the enrollment of current employees in a health benefits plan offered through the employer. Any automatic enrollment program shall include adequate notice and the opportunity for an employee to opt out of any coverage the individual or employee were¹ automatically enrolled in. Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede any State law which establishes, implements, or continues in effect any standard or requirement relating to employers in connection with payroll except to the extent that such standard or requirement prevents an employer from instituting the automatic enrollment program under this section.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 676, §18A, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1511, Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 252.)

§ 218b. Notice to employees

(a) In general

In accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary, an employer to which this chapter applies, shall provide to each employee at the time of hiring (or with respect to current employees, not later than March 1, 2013), written notice—

(1) informing the employee of the existence of an Exchange, including a description of the services provided by such Exchange, and the manner in which the employee may contact the Exchange to request assistance;

(2) if the employer plan's share of the total allowed costs of benefits provided under the plan is less than 60 percent of such costs, that the employee may be eligible for a premium tax credit under section 36B of title 26 and a cost sharing reduction under section 18071 of title 42 if the employee purchases a qualified health plan through the Exchange; and

(3) if the employee purchases a qualified health plan through the Exchange, the employee may lose the employer contribution (if any) to any health benefits plan offered by the employer and that all or a portion of such contribution may be excludable from income for Federal income tax purposes.

(b) Effective date

Subsection (a) shall take effect with respect to employers in a State beginning on March 1, 2013.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 676, §18B, as added and amended Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1512, title X, §10108(i)(2), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 252, 914; Pub. L. 112-10, div. B, title VIII, §1858(c), Apr. 15, 2011, 125 Stat. 169.)

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 112-10 struck out “and the employer does not offer a free choice voucher” after “Exchange”.

2010—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 111-148, §10108(i)(2), inserted “and the employer does not offer a free choice voucher” after “Exchange” and substituted “may lose” for “will lose”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2011 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-10 effective as if included in the provisions of, and the amendments made by, the

provisions of Pub. L. 111-148 to which it relates, see section 1858(d) of Pub. L. 112-10, set out as a note under section 36B of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

§ 218c. Protections for employees

(a) Prohibition

No employer shall discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee with respect to his or her compensation, terms, conditions, or other privileges of employment because the employee (or an individual acting at the request of the employee) has—

(1) received a credit under section 36B of title 26 or a subsidy under section 18071 of title 42;¹

(2) provided, caused to be provided, or is about to provide or cause to be provided to the employer, the Federal Government, or the attorney general of a State information relating to any violation of, or any act or omission the employee reasonably believes to be a violation of, any provision of this title¹ (or an amendment made by this title);¹

(3) testified or is about to testify in a proceeding concerning such violation;

(4) assisted or participated, or is about to assist or participate, in such a proceeding; or

(5) objected to, or refused to participate in, any activity, policy, practice, or assigned task that the employee (or other such person) reasonably believed to be in violation of any provision of this title¹ (or amendment), or any order, rule, regulation, standard, or ban under this title¹ (or amendment).

(b) Complaint procedure

(1) In general

An employee who believes that he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by any employer in violation of this section may seek relief in accordance with the procedures, notifications, burdens of proof, remedies, and statutes of limitation set forth in section 2087(b) of title 15.

(2) No limitation on rights

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any employee under any Federal or State law or under any collective bargaining agreement. The rights and remedies in this section may not be waived by any agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 676, §18C, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1558, Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 261.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 18071 of title 42, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was in the original “section 1402 of this Act”, and was translated as meaning section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is classified to section 18071 of title 42, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

This title, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), (5), probably means title I of Pub. L. 111-148, Mar. 23, 2011, 124 Stat. 130. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

Section 2087(b) of title 15, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), was in the original “section 2807(b) of title 15”, and probably should have read “section 40(b) of the Con-

¹ So in original. Probably should be “was”.

¹ See References in Text note below.