

1-1 By: Taylor, West S.B. No. 1444
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2021; March 24, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 3, 2021,
 1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; May 3, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Hall	X			
1-11 Hughes	X			
1-12 Menéndez	X			
1-13 Paxton	X			
1-14 Perry	X			
1-15 Powell	X			
1-16 Schwertner			X	
1-17 West	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1444 By: Taylor

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to participation in the uniform group coverage program for
 1-23 active school employees.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, is
 1-26 amended by adding Section 1579.1045 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 1579.1045. ALTERNATIVE GROUP HEALTH COVERAGE
 1-28 PROHIBITED. Notwithstanding any other law, a participating entity
 1-29 may not offer or make available to the entity's employees or their
 1-30 dependents group health coverage not provided under the program.

1-31 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, is
 1-32 amended by adding Section 1579.155 to read as follows:

1-33 Sec. 1579.155. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION: ELECTION. (a)
 1-34 Effective September 1, 2022, a participating entity may elect to
 1-35 discontinue the entity's participation in the program by providing
 1-36 written notice to the trustee not later than December 31 of the year
 1-37 preceding the first day of the plan year in which the election will
 1-38 be effective.

1-39 (b) A participating entity that elects to discontinue
 1-40 participation in the program under Subsection (a) may not elect to:

1-41 (1) participate in the program until the fifth
 1-42 anniversary of the effective date of the entity's election to
 1-43 discontinue participation; or

1-44 (2) discontinue the entity's participation after an
 1-45 election described by Subdivision (1) until the fifth anniversary
 1-46 of the effective date of that election.

1-47 (c) Effective September 1, 2022, an entity that elects to
 1-48 participate in the program shall provide written notice to the
 1-49 trustee not later than December 31 of the year preceding the first
 1-50 day of the plan year in which the election will be effective. The
 1-51 entity may not elect to discontinue the entity's participation
 1-52 until the fifth anniversary of the effective date of the entity's
 1-53 election to participate.

1-54 (d) The trustee by rule shall prescribe the time and manner
 1-55 for making an election under this section and may adopt rules
 1-56 necessary to administer this section.

1-57 SECTION 3. Sections 1579.1045 and 1579.155, Insurance Code,
 1-58 as added by this Act, apply only to group coverage provided for a
 1-59 plan year beginning on or after September 1, 2022. A plan year that
 1-60 begins before that date is governed by the law as it existed

2-1 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
2-2 continued in effect for that purpose.

2-3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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