

Amend CSSB 1370 as follows:

(1) In ARTICLE 2 of the bill, insert the following new SECTION, appropriately numbered:

SECTION 2._____. Section 1551.006, Insurance Code, as effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), The Texas A&M University System, including the Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratory, participates in the group benefits program if, not later than November 1, 2004, the system notifies the board of trustees of the system's election to participate. If notice is provided as required by this subsection, the employees and annuitants of the system, including the veterinary medical laboratory, and the dependents of those employees and annuitants, participate in the group benefits program effective not later than September 1, 2005. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, the Texas A&M University System may elect to participate in the group benefits program under this subsection only if the Employees Retirement System determines pursuant to the actuarial study required by HB 1, Acts of the 78th Legislature, 2003, that participation under this subsection will not result in additional cost to the state.

(2) In ARTICLE 4 of the bill, insert the following new SECTION, appropriately numbered:

SECTION 4._____. Subchapter A, Chapter 1601, Insurance Code, as effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 1601.011, Insurance Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 1601.011. PARTICIPATION OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if The Texas A&M University System elects to participate in the group benefits program under Section 1551.006(c), that system, including the Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratory, does not participate in a uniform program established under this chapter, effective on the date participation in the group benefits program under Chapter 1551 begins.

(3) Renumber SECTIONS of the bill appropriately.