

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain children for certain health benefit coverage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (M)(3), Section 2, Chapter 397, Acts of the 54th Legislature, Regular Session, 1955 (Article 3.70-2, Vernon's Texas Insurance Code), is amended to read as follows:

(3) Other policy provisions relating to maximum limiting attained age and enrollment in school may be used to establish continued eligibility for coverage of a child [~~less than~~] 25 years of age or older. In the event of late enrollment, the insurance company may require evidence of insurability satisfactory to the company before inclusion of the child for coverage under the policy.

SECTION 2. Section 3(a), Article 21.24-2, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each health benefit plan that conditions coverage for a child [~~up to~~] 25 years of age or older on the child's being a full-time student at an educational institution shall provide the coverage for an entire academic term during which the child begins as a full-time student and remains enrolled, regardless of whether the number of hours of instruction for which the child is enrolled is reduced to a level that changes the child's academic status to less than that of a full-time student. Additionally, the health

1 benefit plan shall provide the coverage continuously until the 10th
2 day of instruction of the subsequent academic term on which date the
3 health benefit plan may terminate coverage of the child if the child
4 does not return to full-time student status before that date. A
5 health benefit plan may not condition coverage for a child younger
6 than 25 years of age on the child's being enrolled at an educational
7 institution.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
9 applies only to a health insurance policy or health benefit plan
10 that is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after
11 January 1, 2004. A policy or plan that is delivered, issued for
12 delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2004, is governed by the law
13 as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and
14 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1446 was passed by the House on April 25, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1446 on May 26, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1446 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2003, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor