

Amend CSHB 3540 (Senate committee printing) as follows:

(1) In ARTICLE 2 of the bill, strike the heading of the ARTICLE, and substitute the following:

ARTICLE 2. GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR
STATE EMPLOYEES AND ANNUITANTS

(2) In ARTICLE 2 of the bill, insert the following new SECTIONS, appropriately numbered, and renumber subsequent SECTIONS of the article accordingly:

SECTION _____. Section 1551.323, Insurance Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), and (a-3) to read as follows:

(a) An annuitant eligible to participate under Section 1551.102(i), 1551.111(e), or 1551.112(c) is~~[, except as provided by this subsection,]~~ required to pay, ~~[the total cost, as determined by the board, attributable to the participation of that individual and the dependents of that individual]~~ until the date the individual is 65 years of age, an amount equal to the amount of the state or other employer contribution that would be made on behalf of the annuitant and, if applicable, the annuitant's dependents under this chapter if the annuitant were eligible to participate under another provision of Section 1551.102, 1551.111, or 1551.112.

(a-1) The payment made under this section is in addition to other contributions required under Sections 1551.305, 1551.306, and 1551.307.

(a-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if ~~[If]~~ the General Appropriations Act or other similar legislation provides that some or all of the costs paid under Subsection (a) are payable by a state contribution ~~[addresses the payment of those costs]~~, those costs shall be paid in the manner specified by that legislation.

(a-3) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an institution of higher education may provide some or all of the costs paid under Subsection (a) from money appropriated from a fund other than the general revenue fund or from money available from local sources.

SECTION __. The change in law made by this article to Section 1551.323, Insurance Code, applies only to participation on or after September 1, 2005, in the state employees group benefits program established under Chapter 1551, Insurance Code. Participation in the group benefits program before September 1, 2005, is governed by the law as it exists immediately before that date and that law is continued in effect for this purpose.

SECTION __. The change in law made by this article to Section 1551.323, Insurance Code, takes effect September 1, 2005.