

By: Phillips

H.B. No. 1499

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the definition of certain terms in the Texas Economic Development Act.

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

SECTION 1. Section 313.021, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (3) and adding Subdivisions (6) and (7) to read as follows:

(3) "Qualifying job" means a permanent full-time job that:

(A) requires at least 1,600 hours of work a year;

(B) is not transferred from one area in this state to another area in this state;

(C) is not created to replace a previous employee;

(D) is covered by a group health benefit plan~~[as defined by Section 481.151, Government Code]~~ for which the business offers to pay at least 80 percent of the premiums or other charges assessed for employee-only coverage under the plan, if the county where the job is located is not a strategic investment area county, or at least 50 percent of the premiums or other charges assessed for employee-only coverage under the plan, if the county where the job is located is a strategic investment area county, regardless of whether an employee may voluntarily waive the coverage; and

1 (E) if the county where the job is located is not
2 a strategic investment area county, pays at least 110 percent of the
3 county average weekly wage for manufacturing jobs in that [~~the~~]
4 county [~~where the job is located~~].

5 (6) "Group health benefit plan" means:

6 (A) a health plan provided by a health
7 maintenance organization established under Chapter 843, Insurance
8 Code;

9 (B) a health benefit plan approved by the
10 commissioner of insurance; or

11 (C) a self-funded or self-insured employee
12 welfare benefit plan that provides health benefits and is
13 established in accordance with the Employee Retirement Income
14 Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.).

15 (7) "Strategic investment area county" means a county
16 with above state average unemployment or below state average per
17 capita income, as determined by the comptroller under Section
18 171.726.

19 SECTION 2. Section 313.021(3), Tax Code, as amended by this
20 Act, applies only to an agreement to limit the appraised value of
21 property for ad valorem tax purposes that is entered into on or
22 after the effective date of this Act, except that the parties to
23 such an agreement that was entered into before the effective date of
24 this Act may amend that agreement to incorporate the amendments to
25 Section 313.021(3) of that code made by this Act.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.