

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 1687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for group benefits coverage for certain government employees and retirees.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 1551.1055, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1551.1055. DATE ELIGIBILITY BEGINS [~~, WAITING PERIOD~~].

SECTION 2. Sections 1551.1055(a) and (b), Insurance Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Eligibility [~~Except as provided by Subsection (c) or (d), eligibility~~] under Section 1551.101 begins on the first day [~~of the calendar month that begins after the 90th day after the date~~] the employee performs services for a state agency or is qualified for and begins to hold elected or appointed office.

(b) Eligibility [~~Except as provided by Subsection (c), eligibility~~] under Section 1551.102, for an individual who does not retire at the end of the last month for which the individual is on the payroll of a state agency before retirement, begins on the first day of the calendar month that begins after [~~the 90th day after~~] the date the individual retires.

SECTION 3. Section 1551.111(b), Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Participation is limited to:

(1) an officer or employee of either system who has

1 been an officer or employee of either system [~~following completion~~
2 ~~of the waiting period described by Section 1551.1055~~];

3 (2) an eligible dependent of an officer or employee of
4 either system described by Subdivision (1);

5 (3) an individual who:

6 (A) was an officer or employee of either system;

7 (B) has retired from either system, subject to
8 Section 1551.1055;

9 (C) receives or is eligible to receive an annuity
10 from either system or under Chapter 803, Government Code, based on
11 at least 10 years of service credit and is at least 65 years of age;
12 and

13 (D) has at least 10 years of service credit with a
14 state agency whose employees are authorized to participate in the
15 group benefits program; and

16 (4) an eligible dependent of a retired officer or
17 employee described by Subdivision (3).

18 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 1601.1045, Insurance
19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 1601.1045. DATE ELIGIBILITY BEGINS [~~WAITING PERIOD~~].

21 SECTION 5. Sections 1601.1045(a) and (b), Insurance Code,
22 are amended to read as follows:

23 (a) Eligibility [~~Except as provided by Subsection (c) or~~
24 ~~(d), eligibility~~] under Section 1601.101 begins on the first day
25 [~~of the calendar month that begins after the 90th day after the~~
26 ~~date~~] the employee performs services for a system.

27 (b) Eligibility [~~Except as provided by Subsection (c),~~

1 ~~eligibility~~] under Section 1601.102, for an individual who does not
2 retire at the end of the last month for which the individual is on
3 the payroll of a system before retirement, begins on the first day
4 of the calendar month that begins [~~after the 90th day~~] after the
5 date the individual retires.

6 SECTION 6. The following laws are repealed:

7 (1) Sections 1551.1055(c) and (d), Insurance Code; and

8 (2) Sections 1601.1045(c) and (d), Insurance Code.

9 SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act applies only
10 to coverage provided under Chapters 1551 and 1601, Insurance Code,
11 on or after September 1, 2005. Coverage provided under Chapters
12 1551 and 1601, Insurance Code, before September 1, 2005, is
13 governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective
14 date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that
15 purpose.

16 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.