

By: Strama

H.B. No. 543

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain adjunct faculty members of public institutions of higher education to participate in a state group benefits program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1551.1021(a), Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An adjunct faculty member at a public institution of higher education is eligible to participate in the group benefits program as an employee if the faculty member:

(1) receives compensation for services rendered to a public institution of higher education as an adjunct faculty member;

(2) has been employed as a faculty member by the same public institution of higher education and has taught at least one course in each regular fall and spring semester at the public institution of higher education in ~~[each of]~~ the preceding ~~[three]~~ academic year ~~[years]~~; and

(3) is under contract or is scheduled to teach at least nine ~~[12]~~ semester credit hours in the academic year of coverage or, if the person is also employed by the public institution of higher education to perform nonteaching duties, is under contract or is scheduled to teach at least six semester credit hours in the academic year of coverage and has been approved by the public

1 institution of higher education to participate in the group  
2 benefits program.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies  
4 only to coverage for an academic year that begins on or after  
5 December 1, 2007.

6 (b) The board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System  
7 of Texas shall include coverage under Section 1551.1021, Insurance  
8 Code, as amended by this Act, in an insurance policy or contract or  
9 in an evidence of coverage delivered, issued for delivery, or  
10 renewed on or after January 1, 2008. The board of trustees may  
11 include coverage under Section 1551.1021, Insurance Code, as  
12 amended by this Act, in an insurance policy or contract or in an  
13 evidence of coverage delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed  
14 before January 1, 2008, if the board of trustees determines that  
15 coverage may be reasonably included.

16 SECTION 3. 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, 2007.