

By: Truitt

H.B. No. 3321

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring a health benefit plan for enrollment at a public institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.952, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.952. STUDENT HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN REQUIRED FOR ENROLLMENT [~~INSURANCE~~]. (a) In this section:

(1) "Health benefit plan" means any health benefit plan regulated under the Insurance Code, including:

(A) an individual or group health insurance policy; or

(B) an evidence of coverage issued by a health maintenance organization.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code and except as provided by Subsection (f), to enroll at an institution of higher education for a semester or other academic term, a student must submit to the institution proof acceptable to the institution that the student will for that semester or term be covered by a health benefit plan that meets minimum coverage standards and any other requirement established by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule.

1 (c) An institution of higher education may, directly or
2 through the university system, if any, of which the institution is a
3 component, provide to or sponsor for one or more of the
4 institution's students a health benefit plan for purposes of this
5 section. In addition to any other fee or charge authorized or
6 required by law, an institution that provides or sponsors a plan may
7 impose on a student enrolling in the plan a charge in an amount not
8 to exceed any cost to the institution, including administrative
9 costs, in sponsoring or providing the plan in relation to that
10 student.

11 (d) In satisfying the requirement of Subsection (b), a
12 student may select coverage under a health benefit plan provided or
13 sponsored by the institution of higher education at which the
14 student intends to enroll or may select coverage under a plan
15 provided by another entity.

16 (e) On written request of a student, the institution of
17 higher education at which the student intends to enroll shall
18 provide for financial aid purposes a reasonable estimate of the
19 cost of the health benefit plan coverage within the student's cost
20 of education. As part of financial aid provided to a student by the
21 institution, the institution may pay all or part of the student's
22 cost for the health benefit plan coverage required by this section.

23 (f) To provide a student with sufficient time to obtain
24 health benefit plan coverage, an institution of higher education
25 may provisionally enroll for not more than one semester or other
26 academic term a student who is not covered by a health benefit plan
27 in effect as required by this section.

1 (g) The coordinating board shall adopt rules the board
2 considers necessary to carry out this section. The rules must:

3 (1) establish minimum coverage standards and any other
4 requirement for a health benefit plan required under this section,
5 regardless of whether the plan is provided or sponsored by an
6 institution of higher education or by another entity;

7 (2) establish the time allowed and manner required for
8 a student to submit to an institution proof that the student will be
9 covered by a health benefit plan for the applicable semester or
10 other academic term;

11 (3) require each institution, in the time and manner
12 established by the rules, to:

13 (A) determine whether a student will for the
14 applicable semester or other academic term be covered by a health
15 benefit plan that meets minimum coverage standards and any other
16 requirement established by coordinating board rule; and

17 (B) notify the student of that determination; and

18 (4) establish standards for an institution to use in
19 determining whether proof of health benefit plan coverage
20 submitted by a student for purposes of Subsection (b) is
21 acceptable. [~~The governing board of a medical and dental unit may~~
22 require a student enrolled at a medical and dental unit to have in
23 effect during the calendar year of enrollment a health insurance
24 policy for health care services received by the student.

25 ~~[(b) The governing board of a medical and dental unit shall~~
26 ~~determine the minimum coverage standards for health insurance~~
27 ~~required under this section.~~

1 ~~[(c) If the student agrees in writing, the medical and~~
2 ~~dental unit shall provide a reasonable estimate of the cost of the~~
3 ~~health insurance coverage within the student's cost of education~~
4 ~~for financial aid purposes.~~

5 ~~[(d) If a governing board of a medical and dental unit~~
6 ~~requires health insurance coverage for students under Subsection~~
7 ~~(a), a student may be provisionally enrolled at the medical and~~
8 ~~dental unit for one academic session without the coverage in order~~
9 ~~to allow the student time to obtain the coverage.~~

10 ~~[(e) The governing board of a medical and dental unit may~~
11 ~~adopt such other rules and regulations as it determines necessary~~
12 ~~to carry out the purposes of this section.~~

13 ~~[(f) In this section, "governing board" and "medical and~~
14 ~~dental unit" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.]~~

15 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to
16 enrollment of students at public institutions of higher education
17 beginning with the 2008 fall semester.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.