

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1898

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the participation of certain retired employees of juvenile probation departments in the group benefits plan for state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1551.002, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1551.002. PURPOSES. The purposes of this chapter are to:

(1) provide uniformity in life, accident, and health benefit coverages for all state officers and employees and their dependents;

(2) enable the state to attract and retain competent and able employees by providing employees and their dependents with life, accident, and health benefit coverages at least equal to those commonly provided in private industry;

(3) foster, promote, and encourage employment by and service to the state as a career profession for individuals of high standards of competence and ability;

(4) recognize and protect the state's investment in each permanent employee by promoting and preserving economic security and good health among employees and their dependents;

(5) foster and develop high standards of employer-employee relationships between the state and its

1 employees;

2 (6) recognize the long and faithful service and  
3 dedication of state officers and employees and encourage them to  
4 remain in state service until eligible for retirement by providing  
5 health benefits for them and their dependents; ~~and~~

6 (7) recognize the service to the state by employees  
7 and retired employees of community supervision and corrections  
8 departments by extending to them and their dependents the same  
9 life, accident, and health benefit coverages as those provided  
10 under this chapter to state employees, retired state employees, and  
11 their dependents; and

12 (8) recognize the service to the state by retired  
13 employees of juvenile probation departments, who retire from  
14 departments located in a county with a population of less than  
15 500,000, by extending to them the same life, accident, and health  
16 benefit coverages as those provided under this chapter to retired  
17 state employees.

18 SECTION 2. Section 1551.111(c), Insurance Code, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 (c) Except as provided by Section 1551.114 and 1551.115,  
21 participation in the group benefits program does not extend to:

22 (1) the governing body of either system;

23 (2) a municipality or subdivision participating in  
24 either system; or

25 (3) a trustee, officer, or employee, or a dependent of  
26 a trustee, officer, or employee, of a participating municipality or  
27 subdivision.

1 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is  
2 amended by adding Section 1551.115 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 1551.115. PARTICIPATION BY RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF  
4 CERTAIN JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENTS. (a) In this section,  
5 "retired employee of juvenile probation department" means an  
6 employee of a department established under Chapter 142, Human  
7 Resources Code, that retires from that department.

8 (b) A retired employee of a juvenile probation department  
9 shall be treated as an annuitant for purposes of this chapter only  
10 as provided by this section.

11 (c) A retired employee of a juvenile probation department  
12 may participate in the group benefits program administered by the  
13 board of trustees under this chapter. Participation under this  
14 section is limited to retired employees of juvenile probation  
15 departments who are described by Subsections (d) and (e).

16 (d) For a retired employee of a juvenile probation  
17 department who is, on August 31, 2007, employed by a juvenile  
18 probation department, the retired employee may participate in the  
19 group benefits program if:

20 (1) the retired employee:

21 (A) retires from the juvenile probation  
22 department on or after September 1, 2007;

23 (B) has at least 10 years of creditable service  
24 earned for service at a juvenile probation department; and

25 (C) meets all the requirements for retirement  
26 benefits prescribed by the Texas County and District Retirement  
27 System; and

1           (2) the juvenile probation department from which the  
2 retired employee of a juvenile probation department retires:

3           (A) does not provide retired employees access to  
4 a health benefit plan on or after the effective date of the  
5 employee's retirement; or

6           (B) provides retired employees access to a health  
7 benefit plan on or after the effective date of the employee's  
8 retirement that provides coverage that is less comprehensive than  
9 the coverage provided to annuitants under the basic coverage for  
10 annuitants.

11           (e) For a retired employee of a juvenile probation  
12 department who is not described by Subsection (d) and who is  
13 employed by the department on or after September 1, 2007, the  
14 retired employee may participate in the group benefits program if:

15           (1) the retired employee:

16           (A) retires from the juvenile probation  
17 department on or after September 1, 2017;

18           (B) has at least 10 years of creditable service  
19 earned for service at a juvenile probation department on or after  
20 September 1, 2007; and

21           (C) meets all the requirements for retirement  
22 benefits prescribed by the Texas County and District Retirement  
23 System; and

24           (2) the juvenile probation department from which the  
25 retired employee of a juvenile probation department retires:

26           (A) does not provide retired employees access to  
27 a health benefit plan on or after the effective date of the

1 employee's retirement; or

2 (B) provides retired employees access to a health  
3 benefit plan on or after the effective date of the employee's  
4 retirement that provides coverage that is less comprehensive than  
5 the coverage provided to annuitants under the basic coverage for  
6 annuitants.

7 (f) A retired employee of a juvenile probation department is  
8 eligible to participate in the group benefits program on  
9 application to the board of trustees. On application, a retired  
10 employee is automatically covered by the basic coverage for  
11 annuitants unless the retired employee is expelled from the  
12 program.

13 (g) A retired employee is eligible to receive a state  
14 contribution under Subchapter G for premiums to the same extent as  
15 an individual eligible to participate as an annuitant under Section  
16 1551.102.

17 (h) Each participating retired employee of a juvenile  
18 probation department shall pay that portion of the cost of group  
19 coverage selected by the retired employee that exceeds the amount  
20 of the state contribution. The retired employee shall pay  
21 contributions required from the retired employee in the manner  
22 prescribed by the board of trustees.

23 SECTION 4. Subchapter G, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is  
24 amended by adding Section 1551.325 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 1551.325. REQUIRED REPORTS OF JUVENILE PROBATION  
26 DEPARTMENTS. Not later than June 1 of each year, a juvenile  
27 probation department shall submit to the board of trustees a good

1 faith estimate of the number of retired employees and active  
2 employees employed on June 1 but expected to retire before the next  
3 June 1 that may elect to enroll in the group benefits program for  
4 the following fiscal year.

5 SECTION 5. (a) The Employees Retirement System of Texas  
6 shall develop a plan for the extension of benefits under the group  
7 benefits program to retired employees of juvenile probation  
8 departments eligible to participate in the group benefits program  
9 under Section 1551.115, Insurance Code, as added by this Act. The  
10 Employees Retirement System of Texas shall adopt rules necessary to  
11 implement this subsection not later than September 1, 2008.

12 (b) Coverage under Section 1551.115, Insurance Code, as  
13 added by this Act, shall become effective September 1, 2008.

14 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.