

By: Edwards

H.B. No. 2157

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the certification of benefits coordinators at state
3 agencies by the Employees Retirement System of Texas and related
4 reports.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 815, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER G. CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM AND REPORTING

9 Sec. 815.551. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Benefits coordinator" means an employee of a
11 state agency who has been designated by the agency as the person to:

12 (A) provide advice to employees of the agency on
13 benefits programs administered by the retirement system; and

14 (B) act as an agency liaison to the retirement
15 system.

16 (2) "Exception" means a request for assistance
17 processed by the retirement system that a benefits coordinator was
18 unable to handle in a timely manner.

19 Sec. 815.552. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR AGENCY BENEFITS
20 COORDINATORS. (a) The retirement system shall develop a
21 certification program that provides training for benefits
22 coordinators.

23 (b) The retirement system shall require a person who is a
24 benefits coordinator to be certified under the certification

1 program not later than the first anniversary of the date the person
2 was designated as the benefits coordinator.

3 (c) The retirement system shall develop a refresher course
4 to update the training of a certified benefits coordinator and
5 offer the course at appropriate intervals as determined by the
6 retirement system.

7 (d) The retirement system may charge a state agency for
8 training the agency's benefits coordinator in an amount not to
9 exceed the actual cost of providing the training.

10 Sec. 815.553. REPORT. Not later than June 1 of each year,
11 the retirement system shall provide to the board of trustees, the
12 governor, and the Legislative Budget Board a report covering the
13 preceding state fiscal year that includes:

14 (1) a list of state agencies that do not have a
15 benefits coordinator certified by the retirement system under the
16 program developed under Section 815.552;

17 (2) a list of state agencies that do not have dedicated
18 benefits staff;

19 (3) information related to providing support to the
20 agencies that do not have a certified benefits coordinator,
21 including:

22 (A) the costs incurred by the retirement system
23 associated with handling calls from those agencies;

24 (B) the number of exceptions the retirement
25 system processed for those agencies; and

26 (C) information about complaints received by the
27 retirement system from employees of those agencies; and

1 (4) suggested options for serving employees at small
2 agencies or agencies without dedicated benefits staff.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The Employees Retirement System of Texas
4 shall begin offering its certification program under Section
5 815.552, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than June
6 1, 2010.

7 (b) The Employees Retirement System of Texas shall submit
8 the first report required by Section 815.553, Government Code, as
9 added by this Act, not later than June 1, 2010.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.