

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 4505

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of certain postdoctoral fellows and
3 graduate students to participate in health benefit programs at
4 public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 1551.1022 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 1551.1022. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: CERTAIN
9 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS. An individual is
10 eligible to participate in the group benefits program as if the
11 individual were an employee, regardless of whether the individual
12 actually serves as an employee, if the individual, at an
13 institution of higher education:

14 (1) holds a postdoctoral fellowship; or

15 (2) holds other fellowships awarded to the individual
16 on a competitive basis that, either singly or in combination, are
17 valued at not less than \$10,000.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 1601, Insurance Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 1601.1021 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 1601.1021. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: CERTAIN
21 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS. An individual is
22 eligible to participate in the uniform program as if the individual
23 were an employee, regardless of whether the individual actually
24 serves as an employee, if the individual, at an institution in a

1 system:

2 (1) holds a postdoctoral fellowship; or

3 (2) holds other fellowships awarded to the individual
4 on a competitive basis that, either singly or in combination, are
5 valued at not less than \$10,000.

6 SECTION 3. Effective January 1, 2010, Section 1601.101(d),
7 Insurance Code, is repealed.

8 SECTION 4. (a) The board of trustees of the Employees
9 Retirement System of Texas shall include coverage under Section
10 1551.1022, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, in an insurance
11 policy or contract or evidence of coverage delivered, issued for
12 delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2010. The board of
13 trustees may include coverage under Section 1551.1022, Insurance
14 Code, as added by this Act, in an insurance policy or contract or an
15 evidence of coverage delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed
16 before January 1, 2010, if the board of trustees determines that the
17 coverage may reasonably be included.

18 (b) The governing board of The University of Texas System or
19 The Texas A&M University System, as applicable, shall include
20 coverage under Section 1601.1021, Insurance Code, as added by this
21 Act, in an insurance policy or contract or evidence of coverage
22 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1,
23 2010. The governing board of a system may include coverage under
24 Section 1601.1021, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, in an
25 insurance policy or contract or an evidence of coverage delivered,
26 issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2010, if the
27 governing board determines that the coverage may reasonably be

1 included.

2 SECTION 5. Except as provided by this Act, this Act takes
3 effect September 1, 2009.