

AN ACT

relating to employer contributions under small employer health benefit plans.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1501.153, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a small employer health benefit plan issuer may offer a small employer the option of a small employer health benefit plan for which the employer is required to contribute 100 percent of the premium paid. A plan offered under this subsection may be offered in addition to a plan offered by the issuer in accordance with Subsection (a) that requires a lower percentage of the premium paid to be contributed by the employer. A plan issued under this subsection must require the employer to contribute 100 percent of the premium paid for each eligible participating employee.

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a small employer health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2010. A small employer health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2010, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 80 passed the Senate on April 2, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 80 passed the House on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor