

By: Patrick

S.B. No. 1179

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring general academic teaching institutions to offer health benefit plans to students.

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

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

Sec. 51.952. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE AT MEDICAL AND DENTAL UNITS.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9521 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9521. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section:

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

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

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

(2) "High deductible health plan" has the meaning assigned by Section 223, Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) "General academic teaching institution" and "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) A general academic teaching institution shall offer or sponsor, directly or through the university system, if any, of

1 which the institution is a component, one or more health benefit
2 plans for the students of the institution. At least one health
3 benefit plan offered under this section must be a high deductible
4 health plan.

5 (c) The institution shall provide each student the option
6 to:

7 (1) enroll in a health benefit plan offered under this
8 section at the time of the student's registration; and

9 (2) pay the premium or other charges for coverage
10 under the plan in the same payment that includes the student's
11 tuition and fees.

12 SECTION 3. Section 51.9521, Education Code, as added by
13 this Act, applies beginning with the 2010 fall semester.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.