

1-1 By: Patrick S.B. No. 1179  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2009; March 13, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 16, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 16, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to requiring general academic teaching institutions to  
1-9 offer health benefit plans to students.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.952, Education Code,  
1-12 is amended to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 51.952. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE AT MEDICAL AND DENTAL  
1-14 UNITS.

1-15 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
1-16 amended by adding Section 51.9521 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 51.9521. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE AT GENERAL ACADEMIC  
1-18 TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) In this section:

1-19 (1) "Health benefit plan" means any health benefit  
1-20 plan regulated under the Insurance Code, including:

1-21 (A) an individual, group, or blanket health  
1-22 insurance policy; or

1-23 (B) an evidence of coverage issued by a health  
1-24 maintenance organization.

1-25 (2) "High deductible health plan" has the meaning  
1-26 assigned by Section 223, Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

1-27 (3) "General academic teaching institution" and  
1-28 "university system" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

1-29 (b) A general academic teaching institution shall offer or  
1-30 sponsor, directly or through the university system, if any, of  
1-31 which the institution is a component, one or more health benefit  
1-32 plans for the students of the institution. At least one health  
1-33 benefit plan offered under this section must be a high deductible  
1-34 health plan.

1-35 (c) The institution shall provide each student the option  
1-36 to:

1-37 (1) enroll in a health benefit plan offered under this  
1-38 section at the time of the student's registration; and

1-39 (2) pay the premium or other charges for coverage  
1-40 under the plan in the same payment that includes the student's  
1-41 tuition and fees.

1-42 SECTION 3. Section 51.9521, Education Code, as added by  
1-43 this Act, applies beginning with the 2010 fall semester.

1-44 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-45 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-46 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-47 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-48 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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