

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 16, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Vicki Truitt, Chair, House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB582** by Dukes (Relating to informing the parents and guardians of certain children about the availability of the child health plan and medical assistance programs.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Insurance Code to require the Employees Retirement System (ERS) Board of Trustees to establish procedures to notify terminated state employees with children covered in the State Kids Insurance Program that similar coverage is available through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. The notification would take place through the former employing state agency and must include information on how to apply for benefits under the other programs. The procedures must be established by the board by December 1, 2009.

The bill takes effect September 1, 2009, or immediately with two-thirds of all members.

ERS reports that the agency would have to modify its communication materials for terminated employees and coordinate with other agencies to ensure that the employees are informed of the availability of children's health programs. ERS reports that these costs could be absorbed with existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 327 Employees Retirement System

**LBB Staff:** JOB, JRO, MS, DEH