

By: Strama

H.B. No. 1608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to participation in and contributions to the state employee charitable campaign by retired state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Section 659.140(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The [~~Each member of the~~] state policy committee must:

(1) be composed of employees and retired state employees receiving benefits under Chapter 814; and

(2) [~~a state employee. The membership must~~] represent employees at different levels of employee classification.

SECTION 2. Section 659.143(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The presiding officer of a local employee committee shall recruit at least five but not more than 10 additional members. The members must represent different levels of employee classification. One or more members may be retired state employees receiving retirement benefits under Chapter 814.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 814.009, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 814.009. DEDUCTION FROM ANNUITY FOR STATE EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION.

SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 814, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 814.0095 and 814.0096 to read as

1 follows:

2 Sec. 814.0095. CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FROM ANNUITY. (a)

3 Except as provided by Section 814.0096(c), a person who receives an
4 annuity under this subchapter may, on a printed or electronic form
5 filed with the retirement system, authorize the retirement system
6 to deduct from the person's monthly annuity payment the amount of a
7 contribution to the state employee charitable campaign in the
8 manner and for the same purposes for which a state employee may
9 authorize deductions to that campaign under Subchapter I, Chapter
10 659.

11 (b) An authorization under this section must direct the
12 board of trustees to deposit the deducted funds with the
13 comptroller for distribution as required by Section 659.132(g) in
14 the same manner in which a state employee's deduction is
15 distributed.

16 (c) An authorization under this section remains in effect
17 for the period described by Section 659.137 unless the person
18 revokes the authorization by giving notice to the board of
19 trustees.

20 (d) The board of trustees may adopt rules to administer this
21 section. Any rules adopted must be consistent with the
22 comptroller's rules related to the state employee charitable
23 campaign.

24 Sec. 814.0096. COORDINATION WITH STATE EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE

25 CAMPAIGN POLICY COMMITTEE. (a) The board of trustees and the state
26 employee charitable campaign policy committee established under
27 Section 659.140 shall coordinate responsibility for the

1 administration of charitable deductions from annuity payments to
2 the state employee charitable campaign under Section 814.0095.

3 (b) The state policy committee is authorized to approve a
4 budget that includes funding for as many of the expenses incurred by
5 the retirement system associated with the implementation and
6 administration of annuitants' participation in the state employee
7 charitable campaign as is practicable, including notification of
8 annuitants.

9 (c) Except as provided by this subsection, the board of
10 trustees shall charge an administrative fee to cover any costs not
11 paid under Subsection (b) in the implementation of Section 814.0095
12 to the charitable organizations participating in the state employee
13 charitable campaign conducted under that section in the same
14 proportion that the contributions to that charitable organization
15 bear to the total of contributions in that campaign. The board of
16 trustees shall determine the most efficient and effective method of
17 collecting the administrative fee and shall adopt rules for the
18 implementation of this subsection.

19 (d) If necessary, the board of trustees and the state policy
20 committee may make the annuity deduction authorization under
21 Section 814.0095(a) available in stages to subgroups of the
22 retirement system's annuity recipients as money becomes available
23 to cover the expenses under Subsection (b) of this section.

24 SECTION 5. (a) The board of trustees of the Employees
25 Retirement System of Texas, in cooperation with the comptroller and
26 the state employee charitable campaign policy committee
27 established under Section 659.140, Government Code, as amended by

1 this Act, may adopt rules to implement Sections 814.0095 and
2 814.0096, Government Code, as added by this Act.

3 (b) The board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System
4 of Texas by rule shall designate the start date on which annuity
5 deductions begin under Sections 814.0095 and 814.0096, Government
6 Code, as added by this Act.

7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.