

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 29

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of certain postdoctoral fellows and
3 graduate students to participate in health benefit programs at
4 public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 1551.1022 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 1551.1022. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: CERTAIN
9 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS. (a) An individual is
10 eligible to participate in the group benefits program if the
11 individual, at an institution of higher education:

12 (1) holds a postdoctoral fellowship; or

13 (2) holds other graduate fellowships awarded to the
14 individual on a competitive basis that, either singly or in
15 combination, are valued at not less than \$10,000.

16 (b) An institution of higher education at which an
17 individual holds a fellowship described by Subsection (a) is
18 responsible for payment of the contributions for the individual.
19 Each participant shall contribute that portion of the cost of the
20 group coverage selected by the individual that exceeds the amount
21 of contribution funded by the institution. All portions of the
22 contribution funded by the institution shall be made in proportion
23 to the source of funds from which the fellowship is paid, to the
24 extent allowed by the terms of the fellowship.

1 (c) An institution of higher education shall, at the time of
2 initial eligibility, notify each of the individuals eligible to
3 participate in the group benefits program under Subsection (a) of
4 the individual's eligibility to participate in the program.

5 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 1601, Insurance Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 1601.1021 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 1601.1021. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: CERTAIN
8 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS. (a) An individual is
9 eligible to participate in the uniform program if the individual,
10 at an institution in a system:

11 (1) holds a postdoctoral fellowship; or
12 (2) holds other graduate fellowships awarded to the
13 individual on a competitive basis that, either singly or in
14 combination, are valued at not less than \$10,000.

15 (b) An institution of higher education at which an
16 individual holds a fellowship described by Subsection (a) is
17 responsible for payment of the contributions for the individual.
18 Each participant shall contribute that portion of the cost of the
19 group coverage selected by the individual that exceeds the amount
20 of contribution funded by the institution. All portions of the
21 contribution funded by the institution shall be made in proportion
22 to the source of funds from which the fellowship is paid, to the
23 extent allowed by the terms of the fellowship.

24 (c) An institution of higher education shall, at the time of
25 initial eligibility, notify each of the individuals eligible to
26 participate in the group benefits program under Subsection (a) of
27 the individual's eligibility to participate in the program.

1 SECTION 3. Effective January 1, 2012, Section 1601.101(d),
2 Insurance Code, is repealed.

3 SECTION 4. (a) The board of trustees of the Employees
4 Retirement System of Texas shall include coverage under Section
5 1551.1022, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, in an insurance
6 policy or contract or evidence of coverage delivered, issued for
7 delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2012. The board of
8 trustees may include coverage under Section 1551.1022, Insurance
9 Code, as added by this Act, in an insurance policy or contract or an
10 evidence of coverage delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed
11 before January 1, 2012, if the board of trustees determines that the
12 coverage may reasonably be included.

13 (b) The governing board of The University of Texas System or
14 The Texas A&M University System, as applicable, shall include
15 coverage under Section 1601.1021, Insurance Code, as added by this
16 Act, in an insurance policy or contract or evidence of coverage
17 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1,
18 2012. The governing board of a system may include coverage under
19 Section 1601.1021, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, in an
20 insurance policy or contract or an evidence of coverage delivered,
21 issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2012, if the
22 governing board determines that the coverage may reasonably be
23 included.

24 SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.