

By: Blanco

H.B. No. 1597

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state assistance for school employees uniform group health coverage.

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

SECTION 1. Section [42.260\(c\)](#), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a school district or participating charter school may use the following amount of funds only to pay contributions under a group health coverage plan for district or school employees:

(1) an amount equal to 75 percent of the amount certified for the district or school under Subsection (b); or

(2) if the following amount is less than the amount specified by Subdivision (1), the sum of:

(A) the amount determined by multiplying the amount of \$1,800 [~~\$900~~] or the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act for that year for purposes of the state contribution under Section [1579.251](#) [~~9, Article 3.50-7~~], Insurance Code, by the number of district or school employees who participate in a group health coverage plan provided by or through the district or school; and

(B) the difference between the amount necessary for the district or school to comply with Section 1581.052 [~~Section 3, Article 3.50-9~~], Insurance Code, for the school year and the

1 amount the district or school is required to use to provide health  
2 coverage under Section 1581.051, Insurance Code, [~~2 of that~~  
3 ~~article~~] for that year.

4 SECTION 2. Section 1579.251, Insurance Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 1579.251. STATE ASSISTANCE. (a) The state shall  
7 assist employees of participating school districts and charter  
8 schools in the purchase of group health coverage under this chapter  
9 by providing for each covered employee the amount of \$1,800 [~~\$900~~]  
10 each state fiscal year or a greater amount as provided by the  
11 General Appropriations Act. The state contribution shall be  
12 distributed through the school finance formulas under Chapters 41  
13 and 42, Education Code, and used by school districts and charter  
14 schools as provided by Section 42.260, Education Code.

15 (b) The state shall assist employees of participating  
16 regional education service centers and educational districts  
17 described by Section 1579.002(5)(B) in the purchase of group health  
18 coverage under this chapter by providing to the employing service  
19 center or educational district, for each covered employee, the  
20 amount of \$1,800 [~~\$900~~] each state fiscal year or a greater amount  
21 as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
23 school year.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.