

AN ACT

relating to participation of the state military forces in the state group benefits program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 437.212, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (f) and (g) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(f) A member of the state military forces [~~volunteer in the Texas State Guard~~] who is not a full-time or part-time state employee and who has been on state active duty or on state training or other duty for more than 60 [~~90~~] days is, notwithstanding Section 1551.1055, Insurance Code, eligible to participate in the state group benefits program under Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, and is considered to be a full-time state employee for the purposes of that chapter, including the receipt of a full state contribution for [~~to purchase health or dental~~] insurance coverage, subject to Subsection (f-1) and the following requirements:

(1) the participant must be a member of the state military forces [~~Texas State Guard~~] at the time of enrollment in the group benefits program; and

(2) [~~the participant must pay the full cost of health or dental insurance coverage under the group benefits program and may not receive a state contribution for premiums; and~~

[~~(3)~~] an application under this subsection for [~~group~~

1 ~~benefit health or dental~~] insurance coverage must be submitted in  
2 accordance with procedures established by the Employees Retirement  
3 System of Texas.

4 (f-1) The department shall require payment of the cost  
5 associated with paying the state contribution of a member of the  
6 state military forces who elects to participate in the state group  
7 benefits program under Subsection (f) by the person responsible for  
8 paying for the mission for which the member is on state active duty  
9 or state training and other duty. On receipt of payment, the  
10 department shall reimburse the board of trustees of the Employees  
11 Retirement System of Texas for that cost.

12 (g) The adjutant general and the Employees Retirement  
13 System of Texas shall coordinate and consult to implement the  
14 benefits program provided by Subsection (f) and shall adopt a  
15 memorandum of understanding to establish:

16 (1) the procedures that a member of the state military  
17 forces [~~Texas State Guard~~] may use to elect to participate in the  
18 state group benefits program; ~~and~~

19 (2) an appropriate method to annually confirm  
20 continuing eligibility to participate in the group benefits  
21 program; and

22 (3) an appropriate method of administering the  
23 reimbursement of the state contribution as required by Subsection  
24 (f-1).

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2123 was passed by the House on May 7, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2123 on May 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 6, 3 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2123 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor