

By: King of Parker

H.B. No. 2123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 division of the state military forces that calls a
5 member of the state military forces to state active duty or state
6 training and other duty is responsible for the cost of the state
7 contribution of that member if the member elects to participate in
8 the state group benefits program under Subsection (f). The
9 division shall reimburse the board of trustees of the Employees
10 Retirement System of Texas for that cost.

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

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

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

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

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