

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1834

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to participation in the state group benefits program by a  
3 member of the Texas National Guard called to protect the border.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section [437.212](#), Government Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subsection (f-1) and amending Subsection (g) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (f-1) A member of the Texas National Guard who is not a  
9 full-time or part-time state employee and who has been called to  
10 state active duty by the governor for the purpose of providing  
11 border security is eligible to participate in the state group  
12 benefits program under Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, and is  
13 considered to be a full-time employee for the purpose of that  
14 chapter, including the receipt of a full state contribution for  
15 insurance coverage. Notwithstanding Section [1551.1055](#), Insurance  
16 Code, eligibility for a member of the Texas National Guard who  
17 elects to participate in the state group benefits program begins on  
18 the first day of the month following the month in which the member  
19 is called to state active duty. An application for group benefit  
20 health insurance coverage under this subsection must be submitted  
21 in accordance with procedures established by the Employees  
22 Retirement System of Texas.

23 (g) The adjutant general and the Employees Retirement  
24 System of Texas shall coordinate and consult to implement the

1 benefits program provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (f) and (f-1)  
2 and shall adopt a memorandum of understanding to establish:

3 (1) the procedures that a member of the Texas State  
4 Guard or of the Texas National Guard may use to elect to participate  
5 in the state group benefits program; and

6 (2) an appropriate method to annually confirm  
7 continuing eligibility to participate in the group benefits  
8 program.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.