

By: Gutierrez

H.B. No. 1219

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to education 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 sum of the following amounts of funds only to pay contributions under a group health coverage plan for district or school employees:

(1) the amount determined by multiplying the amount described by Section 1579.251(a), Insurance Code, ~~[of \$900 or the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act for that year]~~ for purposes of the state contribution under that section ~~[Section 1579.251, 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

(2) the difference between the amount necessary for the district or school to comply with Section 1581.052, Insurance Code, for the school year and the amount the district or school is required to use to provide health coverage under Section 1581.051, Insurance Code, for that year.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1579.103 to read as follows:

Sec. 1579.103. PRIMARY CARE COVERAGE PLAN. The coverage

1 provided under the primary care coverage plan must be comparable in  
2 scope and, to the greatest extent possible, in cost to the basic  
3 health coverage provided under Chapter 1551.

4 SECTION 3. 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 that, when added  
10 to the minimum required contribution under Section 1581.052 by a  
11 participating entity, equals 100 percent of the amount of premium  
12 required for employee-only coverage under the primary care coverage  
13 plan [of \$900 each state fiscal year or a greater amount as provided  
14 by the General Appropriations Act]. The state contribution shall  
15 be distributed through the school finance formulas under Chapters  
16 41 and 42, Education Code, and used by school districts and charter  
17 schools as provided by Section 42.260, Education Code.

18 (b) The state shall assist employees of participating  
19 regional education service centers and educational districts  
20 described by Section 1579.002(5)(B) in the purchase of group health  
21 coverage under this chapter by providing to the employing service  
22 center or educational district, for each covered employee, the  
23 amount that, when added to the minimum required contribution under  
24 Section 1581.052 by a participating entity, equals 100 percent of  
25 the amount of premium required for employee-only coverage under the  
26 primary care coverage plan [of \$900 each state fiscal year or a  
27 greater amount as provided by the General Appropriations Act].

1           SECTION 4. Section 1581.052(a), Insurance Code, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3           (a) A school district, other educational district,  
4 participating charter school, or regional education service center  
5 shall, for each fiscal year, use to provide health coverage an  
6 amount equal to the number of participating employees of the  
7 district, school, or service center multiplied by \$2,400 [~~\$1,800~~].

8           SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
9 school year.

10          SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.