

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 446  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 24, 2019; February 14, 2019,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;  
 1-4 April 11, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 11, 2019,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 446 By: Nichols

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to requiring a public employer to give notice to new  
 1-22 employees of the ability of certain employees to participate in the  
 1-23 Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 6, Government Code, is amended  
 1-26 by adding Chapter 620 to read as follows:

1-27 CHAPTER 620. NOTICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

1-28 Sec. 620.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "public  
 1-29 employer" means:

1-30 (1) a county, a municipality, or another political  
 1-31 subdivision of this state, including a school district; or

1-32 (2) a board, a commission, an office, a department, or  
 1-33 another agency in the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of  
 1-34 state government, including an institution of higher education.

1-35 Sec. 620.002. NOTICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS  
 1-36 PROGRAM. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) and not later  
 1-37 than the 30th day after the date on which an employee begins  
 1-38 employment with a public employer, the employer shall provide  
 1-39 written notice to the employee of the ability of eligible employees  
 1-40 of the employer to participate in the Public Service Loan  
 1-41 Forgiveness Program administered by the United States Department of  
 1-42 Education. A public employer may deliver a written notice under  
 1-43 this section to an employee by hand delivery, mail, e-mail, or other  
 1-44 form of electronic communication commonly used by the employer to  
 1-45 communicate with employees.

1-46 (b) This section does not apply to a public employer if the  
 1-47 Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program administered by the United  
 1-48 States Department of Education is discontinued or funds are not  
 1-49 made available for the program.

1-50 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
 1-51 section, Chapter 620, Government Code, as added by this Act,  
 1-52 applies to an employee who begins employment on or after the  
 1-53 effective date of this Act.

1-54 (b) A public employer, as defined by Section 620.001,  
 1-55 Government Code, as added by this Act, shall provide the written  
 1-56 notice described by Section 620.002, Government Code, as added by  
 1-57 this Act, to an employee employed by the employer on the effective  
 1-58 date of this Act not later than September 9, 2019.

1-59 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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