

By: Tinderholt

H.B. No. 1440

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health benefits coverage for certain elected officials.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1551.2075 to read as follows:

Sec. 1551.2075. HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN FOR CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS. (a) In this section, "elected official" means a person who is eligible to participate in the group benefits program under Section 1551.101 or 1551.102 based on service performed as governor, lieutenant governor, or a member of the legislature.

(b) The board of trustees shall make available:

(1) for elected officials while in office, health benefit plans that are reasonably comparable to coverage plans of each tier of coverage offered under Chapter 1579; and

(2) subject to Subsection (d), for elected officials receiving or eligible to receive a service retirement annuity, health benefit plans that are reasonably comparable to a basic plan offered under Chapter 1575 and the Medicare Advantage and Medicare prescription drug plans offered under that chapter.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, an elected official is not eligible to enroll in a health benefit plan offered under this chapter other than a health benefit plan offered under this section as provided by Subsection (b).

(d) An elected official who is eligible to enroll in

1 Medicare is eligible to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan or a
2 Medicare prescription drug plan under this section but is not
3 eligible to enroll in another health benefit plan under this
4 section.

5 (e) The board of trustees shall ensure an elected official
6 is subject to comparable premiums, deductibles, copayments,
7 coinsurance, and other out-of-pocket expenses as a person enrolled
8 in a comparable health benefit plan offered under Chapter 1575 or
9 1579, as applicable.

10 SECTION 2. Section 1551.2075, Insurance Code, as added by
11 this Act, applies only to group coverage provided under Chapter
12 1551, Insurance Code, for a plan year beginning on or after
13 September 1, 2020. A plan year that begins before that date is
14 governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective
15 date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that
16 purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.