employer is required to contribute 100 percent of the premium paid. A plan offered under this subsection may be offered in addition to a plan offered by the issuer in accordance with Subsection (a) that requires a lower percentage of the premium paid to be contributed by the employer. A plan issued under this subsection must require the employer to contribute 100 percent of the premium paid for each eligible participating employee.

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a small employer health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2010. A small employer health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2010, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 2, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 2009: Yeas 141, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 463

S.B. No. 202

AN ACT
relating to provisional licensing of physicians to practice in underserved areas.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 155.101 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.101. PROVISIONAL LICENSE TO PRACTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) On application, the board shall grant a provisional license to practice medicine in a location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant for a license under this subtitle who is licensed in good standing as a physician in another state.

(b) The board may not grant a provisional license under this section to an applicant who:
   (1) has had a medical license suspended or revoked by another state or a Canadian province; or
   (2) holds a medical license issued by another state or a Canadian province that is subject to a restriction, disciplinary order, or probationary order.

(c) The provisional license applicant must:
   (1) have passed a national or other examination recognized by the board relating to the practice of medicine within the number of attempts allowed under Section 155.056;
   (2) submit information to enable the board to conduct a criminal background check as required by the board; and
   (3) be sponsored by a person licensed under this subtitle with whom the provisional license holder may practice under this section.

(d) The board may excuse an applicant for a provisional license from the requirement of Subsection (c)(3) if the board determines that compliance with that subsection constitutes a hardship to the applicant.

(e) A person who holds a provisional license issued under this section may only practice medicine in a location:
   (1) designated by the federal government as a health professional shortage area; or
   (2) designated by the federal or state government as a medically underserved area.

(f) A provisional license expires on the earlier of:
(1) the date the board issues the provisional license holder a license under this subtitle or denies the provisional license holder's application for a license; or

(2) the 270th day after the date the provisional license was issued.

(g) The board shall issue a license under this subtitle to the holder of a provisional license under this section if:

(1) the provisional license holder passes the examination required by Section 155.051; and

(2) the provisional license holder satisfies all other license requirements under this subtitle.

SECTION 2. Section 155.101, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, applies to an application for a provisional license submitted on or after January 1, 2010.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on March 19, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 464

S.B. No. 252

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under certain revitalization or redevelopment programs to prohibit ad valorem tax increases on the owner's property for a limited period.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 11.34 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.34. LIMITATION OF TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY IN DESIGNATED AREAS OF CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES. (a) This section applies only to a municipality having a population of less than 10,000.

(b) Acting under the authority of Section 1-o, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, the governing body of a municipality, by official action, may call an election in the municipality to permit the voters of the municipality to determine whether to authorize the governing body to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under the programs administered by the Department of Agriculture as described by Section 1-o, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, under which the parties agree that the ad valorem taxes imposed by any political subdivision on the owner's real property may not be increased for the first five tax years after the tax year in which the agreement is entered into, subject to the terms and conditions provided by the agreement.

(c) If the authority to limit tax increases under this section is approved by the voters and the governing body of the municipality enters into an agreement to limit tax increases under this section, the tax officials shall appraise the property to which the limitation applies and calculate taxes as on other property, but if the tax so calculated exceeds the limitation, the tax imposed is the amount of the tax as limited by this section, except as provided by Subsections (f) and (g).

(d) An agreement to limit tax increases under this section must be entered into before December 31 of the tax year in which the election was held.

(e) A taxing unit may not increase the total annual amount of ad valorem taxes the taxing unit imposes on the property above the amount of the taxes the taxing unit imposed