Amend **CSHB 7** by adding the following appropriately numbered ARTICLE and renumbering existing ARTICLES accordingly:

ARTICLE _____. EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS

SECTION _____.01. Subchapter C, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1551.115 to read as follows:

Sec. 1551.115. LIMITATIONS. The Employees Retirement System of Texas, as trustee, may not contract for or provide a health benefit plan that excludes from participation in the network a general hospital that:

(1) is located in the geographical service area or areas of the health coverage plan that include a county that:

(A) has a population of at least 100,000 and not more than 175,000; and

(B) is located in the Texas-Louisiana border region, as that term is defined in Section 2056.002(e), Government Code; and

(2) agrees to provide medical and health care services under the plan subject to the same terms and conditions as other hospital providers under the plan.

SECTION _____.02. This article takes effect immediately if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this article takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.