

By: Ellis

H.B. No. 2526

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to health benefits for employees of community supervision
3 and corrections departments.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 76.006, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), department
9 employees are not state employees. A [The] department shall
10 contract for all employee benefits, except health insurance
11 benefits, with one county served by the department and designated
12 for that purpose by the district judge or judges. A department
13 shall contract for all employee health insurance benefits with:

14 (1) a county served by the department;

15 (2) any other political subdivision of the state,
16 including a municipality, county, or special purpose district; or

17 (3) the Employees Retirement System of Texas,
18 operating under Chapter 1551, Insurance Code.

19 (a-1) A department contracting for employee health insurance
20 benefits under Subsection (a) must provide health insurance
21 coverage for all active department employees. A department
22 contracting for employee health insurance benefits under
23 Subsection (a) may provide health insurance coverage for retired
24 department employees or the spouses or dependents of active or

1 retired department employees.

2 (a-2) Department~~[, and the]~~ employees are governed by
3 personnel policies and, as applicable, employee benefits policies
4 equal to personnel policies for and benefits of other employees of
5 the ~~[that]~~ county with which the department contracts for all or a
6 portion of department employee benefits.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 76, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Section 76.019 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 76.019. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT. Notwithstanding any
10 other law, a political subdivision of this state or the Employees
11 Retirement System of Texas may contract with a department for the
12 provision of group health benefits for active department employees,
13 retired department employees, or the spouses or dependents of
14 active or retired department employees under Section 76.006(a).

15 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, as
16 effective June 1, 2003, is amended by adding Section 1551.114 to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 1551.114. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COMMUNITY
19 SUPERVISION AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES. (a) A community
20 supervision and corrections department operating under Chapter 76,
21 Government Code, may participate in the group benefits plan
22 administered by the board of trustees under this chapter.

23 (b) Participation under this section is limited to those
24 individuals or groups of individuals subject to a contract between
25 the board and a community supervision and corrections department
26 entered into under Section 76.019, Government Code.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.