

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 525

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of employee wellness programs by state agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 664, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 664.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 664.007. EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM. (a) Each state agency shall designate an individual as the wellness coordinator for the agency. The wellness coordinator may collaborate with other agencies and sources to provide information and resources to employees through bulletin boards and e-mail. The employee wellness program may include:

(1) an agency wellness center staffed by a nurse practitioner who provides employees with services such as blood pressure monitoring and annual health assessments;

(2) ergonomic office equipment;

(3) nutrition education;

(4) smoking cessation programs; and

(5) contracts with fitness centers for reduced membership fees for state employees with a portion of the fees paid by the state.

(b) A state agency with fewer than 100 employees may join with a state agency with 100 employees or more to create a program under this section and to share resources under the program.

1           (c) A state agency may consult with the Texas Department of  
2 Health on wellness issues.

3           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.