

1-1 By: Delisi (Senate Sponsor - Barrientos) H.B. No. 952  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;  
1-3 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Government Organization; May 9, 2005, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 9, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a pilot program to provide health services to state  
1-9 employees in state office complexes.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 6, Government Code, is amended  
1-12 by adding Chapter 671 to read as follows:

1-13 CHAPTER 671. HEALTH SERVICES IN STATE OFFICE COMPLEXES

1-14 Sec. 671.001. NURSE PRACTITIONER IN STATE OFFICE COMPLEXES;  
1-15 PILOT PROGRAM. (a) To reduce the cost of health care and increase  
1-16 the wellness and productivity of state employees, the Employees  
1-17 Retirement System of Texas shall develop and implement a pilot  
1-18 program to make available a licensed advanced practice nurse to  
1-19 provide authorized on-site health services at a selected location  
1-20 to state employees who choose to make use of the services.

1-21 (b) The pilot program must provide for the following:

1-22 (1) a licensed advanced practice nurse as defined by  
1-23 Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who is employed by the state or  
1-24 whose services are acquired by contract, who will be located at a  
1-25 state office complex;

1-26 (2) a licensed physician, who is employed by a state  
1-27 governmental entity for purposes other than the pilot program or  
1-28 whose services are acquired by contract, who will perform all  
1-29 supervisory functions described by Section 157.052(e), Occupations  
1-30 Code;

1-31 (3) appropriate office space and equipment for the  
1-32 advanced practice nurse to provide basic medical care to employees  
1-33 at the state office complex where the nurse is located; and

1-34 (4) professional liability insurance covering  
1-35 services provided by the advanced practice nurse.

1-36 (c) The board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System  
1-37 of Texas shall adopt rules necessary for implementation of this  
1-38 section and shall seek the assistance of state agencies as  
1-39 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

1-40 (d) The Employees Retirement System of Texas shall  
1-41 determine whether it is more efficient to pay directly for some or  
1-42 all of the expenses associated with implementing this chapter or to  
1-43 reimburse expenses through an interagency agreement as the expenses  
1-44 are incurred by an agency participating in the program.

1-45 (e) The Employees Retirement System of Texas may order the  
1-46 pilot program continued or expanded to cover more state office  
1-47 complexes on finding:

1-48 (1) the pilot program has proven beneficial in meeting  
1-49 the health care needs of state employees; and

1-50 (2) continuation or expansion of the pilot program is  
1-51 economically beneficial.

1-52 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as possible after the effective  
1-53 date of this Act, the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement  
1-54 System of Texas shall adopt rules as required by Section 671.001,  
1-55 Government Code, as added by this Act.

1-56 (b) Not later than the 90th day after the date rules are  
1-57 adopted in accordance with Subsection (a) of this section, the  
1-58 Employees Retirement System of Texas shall begin the pilot program  
1-59 at the headquarters of the Texas Commission on Environmental  
1-60 Quality, located on the Park 35 Campus in Austin, Texas.

1-61 (c) Not later than December 31, 2006, the Employees  
1-62 Retirement System of Texas shall issue a report containing a  
1-63 summary of employee participation rates, a costs and benefits  
1-64 analysis, and legislative recommendations concerning the future of

2-1 the pilot program established under Chapter 671, Government Code,  
2-2 as added by this Act, to the:

2-3 (1) governor;

2-4 (2) lieutenant governor;

2-5 (3) speaker of the house of representatives;

2-6 (4) standing committees of the senate and house of  
2-7 representatives having jurisdiction over state spending issues;  
2-8 and

2-9 (5) standing committees of the senate and house of  
2-10 representatives having jurisdiction over health or human services  
2-11 issues.

2-12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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