

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 633

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to provide health services to state employees in state office complexes.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. HEALTH SERVICES IN STATE OFFICE COMPLEXES

Sec. 12.151. NURSE PRACTITIONER IN STATE OFFICE COMPLEXES; PILOT PROGRAM. (a) To reduce the cost of health care and increase the wellness and productivity of state employees, the Department of State Health Services shall develop and implement a pilot program to employ a licensed advanced practice nurse to provide authorized on-site health services to state employees at a selected location.

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

(1) the employment of a licensed advanced practice nurse, as defined by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, as a staff person at a state office complex;

(2) a licensed physician, who is employed by a state governmental entity for purposes other than the pilot program, to sponsor and review the advanced practice nurse as required by rule of the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission;

(3) appropriate office space and equipment for the advanced practice nurse to provide basic medical care to employees

1 at the state office complex where the nurse is located;

2 (4) professional liability insurance covering
3 services provided by the advanced practice nurse to the extent the
4 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
5 determines it is necessary or advisable under state law; and

6 (5) reports to the Employees Retirement System of
7 Texas every six months on the status of the pilot program and the
8 savings and efficiencies resulting from the program.

9 (c) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
10 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary for implementation
11 of this section, including rules that describe the types of on-site
12 health services an advanced practice nurse is authorized to provide
13 and any fees that may be charged for services provided by the
14 advanced practice nurse.

15 (d) The executive commissioner may order the pilot program
16 continued or expanded to cover more state office complexes only on
17 finding:

18 (1) the pilot program is beneficial to the state; and

19 (2) continuation or expansion of the pilot program is
20 economically feasible.

21 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than October 1, 2005, the
22 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
23 shall adopt rules as required by Section 12.151, Health and Safety
24 Code, as added by this Act.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Department of State
26 Health Services shall begin the pilot program at the headquarters
27 of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, located on the

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1 Park 35 Campus in Austin, Texas.

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