

By: Barrientos

S.B. No. 1677

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the powers and duties of the board of hospital managers
3 of the Travis County Hospital District and to employee benefits for
4 certain employees of that district.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 157.002(a), Local Government Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The commissioners court by rule may provide for medical
9 care and hospitalization and may provide for compensation,
10 accident, hospital, and disability insurance for the following
11 persons if their salaries are paid from the funds of the county or
12 funds of a flood control district located entirely in the county, or
13 funds of a hospital district described by Section 281.0475, Health
14 and Safety Code, located entirely in the county, or if they are
15 employees of another governmental entity for which the county is
16 obligated to provide benefits:

17 (1) deputies, assistants, and other employees of the
18 county, or of the flood control district, or of the hospital
19 district, who work under the commissioners court or its appointees;

20 (2) county and district officers and their deputies
21 and assistants appointed under Subchapter A, Chapter 151;

22 (3) employees appointed under Section 10(a), Article
23 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure;

24 (4) any retired person formerly holding any status

1 listed above; and

2 (5) the dependents of any person listed above.

3 SECTION 2. Section 157.003(b), Local Government Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (b) A person who elects to participate in the health plan
6 must authorize contributions to the fund by salary deduction. The
7 authorization must be in writing and must be given at the time of
8 the person's employment or on the effective date of the rules. The
9 county and any participating flood control district or hospital
10 district shall also contribute to the fund. A person who does not
11 contribute to the plan may not receive hospitalization or insurance
12 benefits.

13 SECTION 3. Section 157.101(a), Local Government Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (a) A commissioners court by rule, including through an
16 intergovernmental risk pool organized under Chapter 172, may
17 provide for group health and related benefits, including medical
18 care, surgical care, hospitalization, and pharmaceutical, life,
19 accident, disability, long-term care, vision, dental, mental
20 health, and substance abuse benefits, for the following persons if
21 their salaries are paid from the funds of the county or funds of a
22 flood control district located entirely in the county, or funds of a
23 hospital district described by Section 281.0475, Health and Safety
24 Code, located entirely in the county, or if they are employees of
25 another governmental entity for which the county is obligated to
26 provide benefits:

27 (1) deputies, assistants, and other employees of the

1 county, or of the flood control district, or of the hospital
2 district, who work under the commissioners court or its appointees;

3 (2) county and district officers and their deputies
4 and assistants appointed under Subchapter A, Chapter 151;

5 (3) employees of a community supervision and
6 corrections department established under Chapter 76, Government
7 Code;

8 (4) a retired person formerly holding a status listed
9 in Subdivisions (1)-(3); and

10 (5) the dependents of a person listed in Subdivisions
11 (1)-(4).

12 SECTION 4. Section 157.102(b), Local Government Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (b) A person who elects to participate in any aspect of the
15 group health and related benefits plan and is required to make
16 contributions toward the payment of the plan must authorize
17 contributions to the fund by salary deduction. The authorization
18 must be submitted in writing to the county officer authorized by the
19 commissioners court to administer payroll deductions. The
20 authorization remains in effect as long as the person is required to
21 make contributions toward the payment of the plan. If the amount of
22 the person's required contributions changes after the date the
23 request for deduction is submitted, the county shall notify the
24 person of the change before the change takes effect. The county and
25 any participating flood control district or hospital district may
26 also contribute to the fund.

27 SECTION 5. Section 1431.001(2), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (2) "Eligible countywide district" means a flood
3 control district or a hospital district the boundaries of which are
4 substantially coterminous with the boundaries of a county with a
5 population of three million or more or a hospital district created
6 in a county with a population of more than 800,000 that was not
7 included in the boundaries of a hospital district before September
8 1, 2003.

9 SECTION 6. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety
10 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0475 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 281.0475. RENAMING DISTRICT. (a) This section
12 applies only to a district created in a county with a population of
13 more than 800,000 that was not included in the boundaries of a
14 hospital district before September 1, 2003.

15 (b) With the approval of the commissioners court, the board
16 may rename the district.

17 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety
18 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0513 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 281.0513. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS.
20 (a) This section applies only to a district created in a county
21 with a population of more than 800,000 that was not included in the
22 boundaries of a hospital district before September 1, 2003.

23 (b) With the approval of the commissioners court, the board
24 may contract with a person, private entity, or public entity,
25 including a municipality, county, special district, or other
26 political subdivision of this state, to provide or assist in the
27 provision of services.

1 SECTION 8. Section 281.0461, Health and Safety Code, is
2 repealed.

3 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.