

1-1 By: Barrientos, Wentworth S.B. No. 1677
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2005; March 30, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental
1-4 Relations; April 25, 2005, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 25, 2005, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the powers and duties of the board of hospital managers
1-9 of the Travis County Hospital District and to employee benefits for
1-10 certain employees of that district.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 157.002, Local
1-13 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-14 (a) The commissioners court by rule may provide for medical
1-15 care and hospitalization and may provide for compensation,
1-16 accident, hospital, and disability insurance for the following
1-17 persons if their salaries are paid from the funds of the county or
1-18 funds of a flood control district located entirely in the county, or
1-19 funds of a hospital district described by Section 281.0475, Health
1-20 and Safety Code, located entirely in the county, or if they are
1-21 employees of another governmental entity for which the county is
1-22 obligated to provide benefits:

1-23 (1) deputies, assistants, and other employees of the
1-24 county, or of the flood control district, or of the hospital
1-25 district, who work under the commissioners court or its appointees;

1-26 (2) county and district officers and their deputies
1-27 and assistants appointed under Subchapter A, Chapter 151;

1-28 (3) employees appointed under Section 10(a), Article
1-29 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure;

1-30 (4) any retired person formerly holding any status
1-31 listed above; and

1-32 (5) the dependents of any person listed above.

1-33 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 157.003, Local
1-34 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-35 (b) A person who elects to participate in the health plan
1-36 must authorize contributions to the fund by salary deduction. The
1-37 authorization must be in writing and must be given at the time of
1-38 the person's employment or on the effective date of the rules. The
1-39 county and any participating flood control district or hospital
1-40 district shall also contribute to the fund. A person who does not
1-41 contribute to the plan may not receive hospitalization or insurance
1-42 benefits.

1-43 SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 157.101, Local
1-44 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-45 (a) A commissioners court by rule, including through an
1-46 intergovernmental risk pool organized under Chapter 172, may
1-47 provide for group health and related benefits, including medical
1-48 care, surgical care, hospitalization, and pharmaceutical, life,
1-49 accident, disability, long-term care, vision, dental, mental
1-50 health, and substance abuse benefits, for the following persons if
1-51 their salaries are paid from the funds of the county or funds of a
1-52 flood control district located entirely in the county, or funds of a
1-53 hospital district described by Section 281.0475, Health and Safety
1-54 Code, located entirely in the county, or if they are employees of
1-55 another governmental entity for which the county is obligated to
1-56 provide benefits:

1-57 (1) deputies, assistants, and other employees of the
1-58 county, or of the flood control district, or of the hospital
1-59 district, who work under the commissioners court or its appointees;

1-60 (2) county and district officers and their deputies
1-61 and assistants appointed under Subchapter A, Chapter 151;

1-62 (3) employees of a community supervision and
1-63 corrections department established under Chapter 76, Government
1-64 Code;

2-1 (4) a retired person formerly holding a status listed
2-2 in Subdivisions (1)-(3); and

2-3 (5) the dependents of a person listed in Subdivisions
2-4 (1)-(4).

2-5 SECTION 4. Subsection (b), Section 157.102, Local
2-6 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-7 (b) A person who elects to participate in any aspect of the
2-8 group health and related benefits plan and is required to make
2-9 contributions toward the payment of the plan must authorize
2-10 contributions to the fund by salary deduction. The authorization
2-11 must be submitted in writing to the county officer authorized by the
2-12 commissioners court to administer payroll deductions. The
2-13 authorization remains in effect as long as the person is required to
2-14 make contributions toward the payment of the plan. If the amount of
2-15 the person's required contributions changes after the date the
2-16 request for deduction is submitted, the county shall notify the
2-17 person of the change before the change takes effect. The county and
2-18 any participating flood control district or hospital district may
2-19 also contribute to the fund.

2-20 SECTION 5. Subdivision (2), Section 1431.001, Government
2-21 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-22 (2) "Eligible countywide district" means a flood
2-23 control district or a hospital district the boundaries of which are
2-24 substantially coterminous with the boundaries of a county with a
2-25 population of three million or more or a hospital district created
2-26 in a county with a population of more than 800,000 that was not
2-27 included in the boundaries of a hospital district before September
2-28 1, 2003.

2-29 SECTION 6. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety
2-30 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0475 to read as follows:

2-31 Sec. 281.0475. RENAMING DISTRICT. (a) This section
2-32 applies only to a district created in a county with a population of
2-33 more than 800,000 that was not included in the boundaries of a
2-34 hospital district before September 1, 2003.

2-35 (b) With the approval of the commissioners court, the board
2-36 may rename the district.

2-37 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety
2-38 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0513 to read as follows:

2-39 Sec. 281.0513. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

2-40 (a) This section applies only to a district created in a county
2-41 with a population of more than 800,000 that was not included in the
2-42 boundaries of a hospital district before September 1, 2003.

2-43 (b) With the approval of the commissioners court, the board
2-44 may contract with a person, private entity, or public entity,
2-45 including a municipality, county, special district, or other
2-46 political subdivision of this state, to provide or assist in the
2-47 provision of services.

2-48 SECTION 8. Section 281.0461, Health and Safety Code, is
2-49 repealed.

2-50 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-51 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-52 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-53 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-54 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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