

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1107

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Travis County Healthcare District.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 803, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 803.204 to read as follows:

Sec. 803.204. COMBINED SERVICE CREDIT IN CERTAIN SYSTEMS.

(a) This section applies only to an employee who:

(1) is a member of a municipal retirement system described by Section 803.0021(1);

(2) is employed by a hospital district, a charitable organization created by the hospital district, or an administrative agency created under Section 791.013, either before or after being employed by the employing municipality located in the same county as the hospital district, charitable organization, or administrative agency; and

(3) participates in a public retirement system:

(A) that is determined to be a qualified plan under Section 401(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Section 401(a)), of a hospital district, charitable organization, or administrative agency that is determined to be a governmental unit, or an agency or an instrumentality of a governmental unit; and

(B) that records and reports service credit as defined by Section 803.001.

1       (b) Any service credit earned by an employee described by  
2 Subsection (a) with a retirement system established by the hospital  
3 district, charitable organization, or administrative agency will  
4 be combined under Section 803.201 to determine whether the employee  
5 meets the length-of-service requirements for service retirement  
6 under the municipal retirement system.

7       (c) On retirement, an employee described by Subsection (a)  
8 will receive a benefit from the municipal retirement system as  
9 determined by Subchapter D, and if the hospital district or  
10 administrative agency has established or participates in a  
11 retirement program or the charitable organization has a retirement  
12 plan, will receive a benefit from the hospital district,  
13 administrative agency, or charitable organization as determined by  
14 the terms of the district's, agency's, or organization's retirement  
15 plan.

16       SECTION 2. Subdivision (2), Section 1431.001, Government  
17 Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

25       SECTION 3. Section 61.056, Health and Safety Code, is  
26 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

27       (c) A hospital district created in a county with a

1 population of more than 800,000 that was not included in the  
2 boundaries of a hospital district before September 1, 2003, may  
3 affiliate with any public or private entity to provide regional  
4 administration and delivery of health care services. The regional  
5 affiliation, in accordance with the affiliation agreement, shall  
6 use money contributed by an affiliated governmental entity to  
7 provide health care services to an eligible resident of that  
8 governmental entity.

9 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
10 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0281 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 281.0281. EMPLOYMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

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

15 (b) The board may employ physicians, dentists, or other  
16 health care providers as the board considers necessary for the  
17 district's efficient operation.

18 (c) This section does not authorize the board to supervise  
19 or control the practice of medicine or permit the unauthorized  
20 practice of medicine, as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3,  
21 Occupations Code.

22 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
23 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0511 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 281.0511. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

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

1        (b) Notwithstanding Sections 281.050 and 281.051, the board  
2 may contract with any person, including a private or public entity  
3 or a political subdivision of this state, to provide or assist in  
4 the provision of services.

5        SECTION 6. Section 281.0565, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7        (d) A district created in a county with a population of more  
8 than 800,000 that was not included in the boundaries of a hospital  
9 district before September 1, 2003, may make a capital or other  
10 financial contribution to a charitable organization created by the  
11 district to provide regional administration and delivery of health  
12 care services to or for the district.

13        SECTION 7. Subchapter G, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
14 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.124 to read as follows:

15        Sec. 281.124. ELECTION TO APPROVE TAX RATE IN EXCESS OF  
16 ROLLBACK TAX RATE. (a) This section applies only to a district  
17 created in a county with a population of more than 800,000 that was  
18 not included in the boundaries of a hospital district before  
19 September 1, 2003.

20        (b) The board may hold an election at which the registered  
21 voters of the district may approve a tax rate for the current tax  
22 year that exceeds the district's rollback tax rate for the year  
23 computed under Chapter 26, Tax Code, by a specific rate stated in  
24 dollars and cents per \$100 of taxable value.

25        (c) An election under this section must be held at least 180  
26 days before the date on which the district's tax rate is adopted by  
27 the board. At the election, the ballot shall be prepared to permit

1 voting for or against the proposition: "Approving the ad valorem  
2 tax rate of \$ (insert total proposed tax rate) per \$100 valuation in  
3 (insert district name) for the (insert current tax year) tax year, a  
4 rate that exceeds the district's rollback tax rate. The proposed ad  
5 valorem tax rate exceeds the ad valorem tax rate most recently  
6 adopted by the district by \$(insert difference between proposed and  
7 preceding year's tax rates) per \$100 valuation."

8 (d) If a majority of the votes cast in the election favor the  
9 proposition, the tax rate for the specified tax year is the rate  
10 approved by the voters, and that rate is not subject to a rollback  
11 election under Section 26.07, Tax Code. The board shall adopt the  
12 tax rate as provided by Chapter 26, Tax Code.

13 (e) If the proposition is not approved as provided by  
14 Subsection (c), the board may not adopt a tax rate for the district  
15 for the specified tax year that exceeds the rate that was not  
16 approved, and Section 26.07, Tax Code, applies to the adopted rate  
17 if that rate exceeds the rollback tax rate.

18 (f) Notwithstanding any other law, if a majority of the  
19 votes cast in the election favor the proposition, a governing body  
20 with approval authority over the district's budget or tax rate may  
21 not disapprove the tax rate approved by the voters or disapprove the  
22 budget based solely on the tax rate approved by the voters.

23 SECTION 8. Section 162.001, Occupations Code, is amended by  
24 adding Subsections (c-4) and (c-5) to read as follows:

25 (c-4) The board shall certify a health organization to  
26 contract with or employ physicians licensed by the board if the  
27 organization:

1           (1) is a hospital district:

2                   (A) recognized by a federal agency as a public  
3 entity eligible to receive a grant related to a community or  
4 federally qualified health center described by Subdivision (2); and

5                   (B) created in a county with a population of more  
6 than 800,000 that was not included in the boundaries of a hospital  
7 district before September 1, 2003; and

8           (2) is organized and operated as:

9                   (A) a migrant, community, or homeless health  
10 center under the authority of and in compliance with 42 U.S.C.  
11 Section 254b or 254c; or

12                   (B) a federally qualified health center under 42  
13 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(2)(B).

14           (c-5) This section applies to a hospital district described  
15 by Subsection (c-4) only in relation to the hospital district's  
16 operations as a community or federally qualified health center  
17 described by Subsection (c-4)(2).

18           SECTION 9. Section 281.123, Health and Safety Code, is  
19 repealed.

20           SECTION 10. Section 803.204, Government Code, as added by  
21 this Act, applies only to a person who retires on or after the  
22 effective date of this Act.

23           SECTION 11. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.