

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 1761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the 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 671.001 of the Government Code is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(1) a licensed advanced practice nurse as defined by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, or a licensed physician assistant as defined by Section 204.001, Occupations Code who is employed by the state or whose services are acquired by contract, who will be located at a state office complex;

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

1 Code;

2 (3) appropriate office space and equipment for the  
3 advanced practice nurse or physician assistant to provide basic  
4 medical care to employees at the state office complex where the  
5 nurse or physician assistant is located; and

6 (4) professional liability insurance covering  
7 services provided by the advanced practice nurse or the physician  
8 assistant.

9 (c) The board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System  
10 of Texas shall adopt rules necessary for implementation of this  
11 section and shall seek the assistance of state agencies as  
12 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

13 (d) The Employees Retirement System of Texas shall  
14 determine whether it is more efficient to pay directly for some or  
15 all of the expenses associated with implementing this chapter or to  
16 reimburse expenses through an interagency agreement as the expenses  
17 are incurred by an agency participating in the program.

18 (e) The Employees Retirement System of Texas may order the  
19 pilot program continued or expanded to cover more state office  
20 complexes on finding:

21 (1) the pilot program has proven beneficial in meeting  
22 the health care needs of state employees; and

23 (2) continuation or expansion of the pilot program is  
24 economically beneficial.

25 Section 2. As soon as possible after the effect of this Act,  
26 the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas  
27 shall adopt rules as required by Section 671.001, Government Code,

1 as amended by this Act.

2 Section 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.