

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 1761
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2007; March 21, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Government Organization;
1-4 April 12, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; April 12, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the pilot program to provide health services to state
1-9 employees in state office complexes.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 671.001, Government Code, is amended to
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 671.001. NURSE PRACTITIONER OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT IN
1-14 STATE OFFICE COMPLEXES; PILOT PROGRAM. (a) To reduce the cost of
1-15 health care and increase the wellness and productivity of state
1-16 employees, the Employees Retirement System of Texas shall develop
1-17 and implement a pilot program to make available a licensed advanced
1-18 practice nurse or a licensed physician assistant to provide
1-19 authorized on-site health services at a selected location to state
1-20 employees who choose to make use of the services.

1-21 (b) The pilot program must provide for the following:

1-22 (1) a licensed advanced practice nurse as defined by
1-23 Section 301.152, Occupations Code, or a licensed physician
1-24 assistant as described by Chapter 204, Occupations Code, who is
1-25 employed by the state or whose services are acquired by contract,
1-26 who will be located at a state office complex;

1-27 (2) a licensed physician, who is employed by a state
1-28 governmental entity for purposes other than the pilot program or
1-29 whose services are acquired by contract, who will perform all
1-30 supervisory functions described by Section 157.052(e), Occupations
1-31 Code;

1-32 (3) appropriate office space and equipment for the
1-33 advanced practice nurse or physician assistant to provide basic
1-34 medical care to employees at the state office complex where the
1-35 nurse or physician assistant is located; and

1-36 (4) professional liability insurance covering
1-37 services provided by the advanced practice nurse or the physician
1-38 assistant.

1-39 (c) The board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System
1-40 of Texas shall adopt rules necessary for implementation of this
1-41 section and shall seek the assistance of state agencies as
1-42 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

1-43 (d) The Employees Retirement System of Texas shall
1-44 determine whether it is more efficient to pay directly for some or
1-45 all of the expenses associated with implementing this chapter or to
1-46 reimburse expenses through an interagency agreement as the expenses
1-47 are incurred by an agency participating in the program.

1-48 (e) The Employees Retirement System of Texas may order the
1-49 pilot program continued or expanded to cover more state office
1-50 complexes on finding:

1-51 (1) the pilot program has proven beneficial in meeting
1-52 the health care needs of state employees; and

1-53 (2) continuation or expansion of the pilot program is
1-54 economically beneficial.

1-55 SECTION 2. As soon as possible after the effect of this Act,
1-56 the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas
1-57 shall adopt rules as required by Section 671.001, Government Code,
1-58 as amended by this Act.

1-59 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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