

By: Bonnen

H.B. No. 879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Sweeny Hospital District.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4, Chapter 135, Acts of the 58th Legislature, Regular Session, 1963, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. (a) The management and control of the ~~each~~ ~~hospital]~~ district ~~[created pursuant to the provisions of this Act]~~ is hereby vested in the board of directors of the district who shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties upon the approval of such expenses by the entire board of directors.

(b) The board may employ physicians or other health care providers as the board considers necessary for the efficient operation of the district. This section may not be construed as authorizing the board to supervise or control the practice of medicine, as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Chapter 135, Acts of the 58th Legislature, Regular Session, 1963, is amended by adding Sections 6A and 6B to read as follows:

Sec. 6A. In addition to the authority to issue general obligation bonds and revenue bonds under this Act, the board may provide for the security and payment of district bonds from a pledge of a combination of ad valorem taxes as authorized by Section 6(a) of this Act and revenue and other sources as authorized by Section

1 6(e) of this Act.

2 Sec. 6B. The district may use the proceeds of bonds issued  
3 under this Act to pay:

4 (1) any expense the board determines is reasonable and  
5 necessary to issue, sell, and deliver the bonds;

6 (2) interest payments on the bonds during a period of  
7 acquisition or construction of a project or facility to be provided  
8 through the bonds, not to exceed five years;

9 (3) costs related to the operation and maintenance of  
10 a project or facility to be provided through the bonds:

11 (A) during an estimated period of acquisition or  
12 construction, not to exceed five years; and

13 (B) for one year after the project or facility is  
14 acquired or constructed;

15 (4) costs related to the financing of the bond funds,  
16 including debt service reserve and contingency funds;

17 (5) costs related to the bond issuance;

18 (6) costs related to the acquisition of land or  
19 interests in land for a project or facility to be provided through  
20 the bonds; and

21 (7) costs of construction of a project or facility to  
22 be provided through the bonds, including the payment of related  
23 professional services and expenses.

24 SECTION 3. Section 7, Chapter 135, Acts of the 58th  
25 Legislature, Regular Session, 1963, is amended by adding Subsection  
26 (e) to read as follows:

27 (e) The district may establish a comprehensive program to

1 provide income and medical benefits to a district employee who  
2 sustains an injury that arises out of and in the course and scope of  
3 employment. If the district adopts a comprehensive program under  
4 this subsection, the district is exempt from Section 504.011, Labor  
5 Code, to the extent that the section requires the district to  
6 provide workers' compensation to its employees.

7 SECTION 4. Chapter 135, Acts of the 58th Legislature,  
8 Regular Session, 1963, is amended by adding Section 7B to read as  
9 follows:

10 Sec. 7B. (a) The board may borrow money at a rate not to  
11 exceed the maximum annual percentage rate allowed by law for  
12 district obligations at the time the loan is made.

13 (b) To secure a loan, the board may pledge:

14 (1) district revenue that is not pledged to pay the  
15 district's bonded indebtedness;

16 (2) a district tax to be imposed by the district during  
17 the 12-month period following the date of the pledge that is not  
18 pledged to pay the principal of or interest on district bonds; or

19 (3) a district bond that has been authorized but not  
20 sold.

21 (c) A loan for which taxes or bonds are pledged must mature  
22 not later than the first anniversary of the date the loan is made. A  
23 loan for which district revenue is pledged must mature not later  
24 than the fifth anniversary of the date the loan is made.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

H.B. No. 879

1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.