

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 1795

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the authority of certain local governmental entities in  
3 certain populous counties to appoint, contract for, or employ  
4 physicians.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.0283 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 281.0283. HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT; EMPLOYMENT  
9 OF PHYSICIANS. (a) The board of the Harris County Hospital  
10 District may appoint, contract for, or employ physicians as the  
11 board considers necessary for the efficient operation of the  
12 district.

13 (b) The term of an employment contract entered into under  
14 this section may not exceed four years.

15 (c) A physician employed by the Harris County Hospital  
16 District under this section is subject to the same standards and  
17 procedures regarding credentialing, peer review, quality of care,  
18 and privileges as a physician not employed by the district.

19 (d) This section may not be construed as authorizing the  
20 board of the Harris County Hospital District to supervise or  
21 control the practice of medicine, as prohibited by Subtitle B,  
22 Title 3, Occupations Code.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 351, Local Government  
24 Code, is amended by adding Section 351.045 to read as follows:

1       Sec. 351.045. HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES;  
2 EMPLOYMENT OF PHYSICIANS. (a) The commissioners court of a county  
3 with a population of 3.3 million or more may appoint, contract for,  
4 or employ physicians to provide health care services to inmates in  
5 the custody of the sheriff.

6       (b) This section may not be construed as authorizing the  
7 commissioners court to supervise or control the practice of  
8 medicine, as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code.

9       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.