By:  Metcalf (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 2171

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 26, 2021; May 3, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government; May 13, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Bettencourt       X

Menéndez          X

Eckhardt          X

Gutierrez         X

Hall              X

Nichols           X

Paxton            X

Springer          X

Zaffirini         X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2171 By:  Paxton

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain retired firefighters and emergency medical services providers to purchase continued health benefits coverage.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 175.001, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 175.001. APPLICABILITY.  This chapter applies to a person who:

(1)  retires from:

(A)  county employment in a county with a population of 75,000 or more;

(B)  employment by an appraisal district in a county with a population of 75,000 or more; [~~or~~]

(C)  municipal employment in a municipality with a population of 25,000 or more; or

(D)  employment as a firefighter or emergency medical services provider by an emergency services district located wholly or partly in a county with a population of 150,000 or more; and

(2)  is entitled to receive retirement benefits from a county, appraisal district, or municipal retirement plan or emergency services district.

SECTION 2.  (a) Chapter 175, Local Government Code, as amended by this Act, applies according to its terms to all eligible persons who leave employment with an emergency services district on or after January 1, 2022.

(b)  An emergency services district that is required by Chapter 175, Local Government Code, as amended by this Act, to provide continued health benefits coverage but that is not allowed to provide the coverage under the terms of the district's existing group health plan shall ensure that the required continued health benefits coverage is provided for in any new plan that is adopted by the district on or after January 1, 2022, unless the district is exempted under Section 175.007, Local Government Code.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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