

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 2171

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the eligibility of certain retired firefighters and  
3 emergency medical services providers to purchase continued health  
4 benefits coverage.

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

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

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

- 10 (1) retires from:
- 11 (A) county employment in a county with a  
12 population of 75,000 or more;
- 13 (B) employment by an appraisal district in a  
14 county with a population of 75,000 or more; ~~or~~
- 15 (C) municipal employment in a municipality with a  
16 population of 25,000 or more; or
- 17 (D) employment as a firefighter or emergency  
18 medical services provider by an emergency services district located  
19 wholly or partly in a county with a population of 200,000 or more;  
20 and

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

24 SECTION 2. (a) Chapter 175, Local Government Code, as

1 amended by this Act, applies according to its terms to all eligible  
2 persons who leave employment with an emergency services district on  
3 or after January 1, 2022.

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

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