

By: Bell of Montgomery

H.B. No. 3849

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain retired firefighters, police officers, 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. (a) In this section, "township" means a special district with territory that only includes a census designated place, as designated by the United States Bureau of the Census.

(b) 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;

(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; or

(E) employment as a firefighter, police officer,

1 or emergency medical services provider by a township with a
2 population of 110,000 or more; and

3 (2) is entitled to receive retirement benefits from a
4 county, appraisal district, or municipal retirement plan, ~~[or]~~
5 emergency services district, or township.

6 SECTION 2. (a) Chapter 175, Local Government Code, as
7 amended by this Act, applies according to its terms to all eligible
8 persons who leave employment with a township on or after January 1,
9 2024.

10 (b) A township that is required by Chapter 175, Local
11 Government Code, as amended by this Act, to provide continued
12 health benefits coverage but that is not allowed to provide the
13 coverage under the terms of the township's existing group health
14 plan shall ensure that the required continued health benefits
15 coverage is provided for in any new plan that is adopted by the
16 township on or after January 1, 2024, unless the township is
17 exempted under Section 175.007, Local Government Code.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.