

By: Oliverson

H.B. No. 2655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to operation by certain nonprofit organizations of certain regional health care programs for employees of small employers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 75.051, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A community-based nonprofit organization may establish or participate in a regional health care program under this subchapter without the participation of the commissioners court of a county if the program is a premium assistance program not offering health care services or health care benefits.

SECTION 2. Section 75.052(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A regional health care program may be operated subject to the direct governance of the commissioners courts of the participating counties or, for a program operating under Section 75.051(c), a nonprofit organization. A local health care program may be operated subject to the direct governance of the commissioners court of the participating county. A regional or local health care program may be operated by a joint council, tax-exempt nonprofit entity, or other entity that:

(1) operates the program under a contract with the commissioners court or courts, as applicable; ~~[or]~~

(2) is an entity in which the county or counties

1 participate or that is established or designated by the
2 commissioners court or courts, as applicable, to operate the
3 program; or

4 (3) for a program operating under Section 75.051(c),
5 is a participating nonprofit organization.

6 SECTION 3. Section 75.101, Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 75.101. ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED; PROGRAM
9 OBJECTIVES. In developing a regional or local health care program,
10 a governing body may provide health care services or benefits as
11 described by this subchapter or may develop another type of program
12 to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. A regional or local
13 health care program must be developed, to the extent practicable,
14 to:

15 (1) reduce the number of individuals without health
16 benefit plan coverage within the boundaries of the participating
17 county or counties or, for a program operating under Section
18 75.051(c), in a county in which a participating nonprofit
19 organization operates;

20 (2) address rising health care costs and reduce the
21 cost of health care services or health benefit plan coverage for
22 small employers and their employees within the boundaries of the
23 participating county or counties or, for a program operating under
24 Section 75.051(c), in a county in which a participating nonprofit
25 organization operates;

26 (3) promote preventive care and reduce the incidence
27 of preventable health conditions, such as heart disease, cancer,

1 and diabetes and low birth weight in infants;

2 (4) promote efficient and collaborative delivery of
3 health care services;

4 (5) serve as a model for the innovative use of health
5 information technology to promote efficient delivery of health care
6 services, reduce health care costs, and improve the health of the
7 community; and

8 (6) provide fair payment rates for health care
9 providers.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.