

1-1 By: Oliverson, et al. H.B. No. 2655
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa of Hidalgo)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2025;
 1-4 May 19, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Health &
 1-5 Human Services; May 26, 2025, reported favorably by the following
 1-6 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 26, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 | | | | |
| 1-9 | X | | | |
| 1-10 | X | | | |
| 1-11 | X | | | |
| 1-12 | X | | | |
| 1-13 | X | | | |
| 1-14 | X | | | |
| 1-15 | | | X | |
| 1-16 | X | | | |
| 1-17 | X | | | |

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to operation by certain nonprofit organizations of certain
 1-21 regional health care programs for employees of small employers.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Section 75.051, Health and Safety Code, is
 1-24 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

1-25 (c) A community-based nonprofit organization may establish
 1-26 or participate in a regional health care program under this
 1-27 subchapter without the participation of the commissioners court of
 1-28 a county if the program is a premium assistance program not offering
 1-29 health care services or health care benefits.

1-30 SECTION 2. Section 75.052(a), Health and Safety Code, is
 1-31 amended to read as follows:

1-32 (a) A regional health care program may be operated subject
 1-33 to the direct governance of the commissioners courts of the
 1-34 participating counties or, for a program operating under Section
 1-35 75.051(c), a nonprofit organization. A local health care program
 1-36 may be operated subject to the direct governance of the
 1-37 commissioners court of the participating county. A regional or
 1-38 local health care program may be operated by a joint council,
 1-39 tax-exempt nonprofit entity, or other entity that:

1-40 (1) operates the program under a contract with the
 1-41 commissioners court or courts, as applicable; ~~or~~

1-42 (2) is an entity in which the county or counties
 1-43 participate or that is established or designated by the
 1-44 commissioners court or courts, as applicable, to operate the
 1-45 program; or

1-46 (3) for a program operating under Section 75.051(c),
 1-47 is a participating nonprofit organization.

1-48 SECTION 3. Section 75.101, Health and Safety Code, is
 1-49 amended to read as follows:

1-50 Sec. 75.101. ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED; PROGRAM
 1-51 OBJECTIVES. In developing a regional or local health care program,
 1-52 a governing body may provide health care services or benefits as
 1-53 described by this subchapter or may develop another type of program
 1-54 to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. A regional or local
 1-55 health care program must be developed, to the extent practicable,
 1-56 to:

1-57 (1) reduce the number of individuals without health
 1-58 benefit plan coverage within the boundaries of the participating
 1-59 county or counties or, for a program operating under Section
 1-60 75.051(c), in a county in which a participating nonprofit
 1-61 organization operates;

2-1 (2) address rising health care costs and reduce the
2-2 cost of health care services or health benefit plan coverage for
2-3 small employers and their employees within the boundaries of the
2-4 participating county or counties or, for a program operating under
2-5 Section 75.051(c), in a county in which a participating nonprofit
2-6 organization operates;

2-7 (3) promote preventive care and reduce the incidence
2-8 of preventable health conditions, such as heart disease, cancer,
2-9 and diabetes and low birth weight in infants;

2-10 (4) promote efficient and collaborative delivery of
2-11 health care services;

2-12 (5) serve as a model for the innovative use of health
2-13 information technology to promote efficient delivery of health care
2-14 services, reduce health care costs, and improve the health of the
2-15 community; and

2-16 (6) provide fair payment rates for health care
2-17 providers.

2-18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-19 * * * * *