

Web Search by Yahoo!

Search Blog Keywords

News Sports Business Entertainment Life Health Travel Opinion Autos Real Estate Jobs Shopping Classifieds



Elections Weather Traffic Investigations Obituaries Celebrations Photos Video Blogs eBooks Contact Us Subscribe

Home > Transportation Blog

DART's full board to take first look Tuesday at giving health benefits to domestic partners



By Tom Benning / Reporter

tbenning@dallasnews.com

12:57 pm on February 25, 2013 | Permalink

3 13 0 13

A Dallas Area Rapid Transit proposal to give employee health benefits to domestic partners, including gay and lesbian couples, and their children will go before the agency's entire board for the first time on Tuesday.

DART's committee-of-the-whole, which includes all 15 board members, will consider the policy at a 4 p.m. meeting at the agency's downtown Dallas headquarters. [As we reported two weeks ago](#), the plan has been approved by the board's administrative committee.

The proposal could impact nearly 200 people, including both DART employees and their family members, and cost DART as much as \$734,849 annually. More conservative estimates, however, say it could affect as few as 17 people and cost as little as \$60,748.

The policy, if moved forward with a majority vote, would still need final approval at a meeting next month. But the plan, which faced some resistance during the administrative committee meeting, could also be voted down or delayed further on Tuesday.

Some board members have expressed reservations about the proposal, with Randall Chrisman asking earlier this month, "Are we on the cutting edge or are we beyond the cutting edge?" So the committee-of-the-whole meeting should make clear the policy's chances of passing.

If ultimately approved, the measure would go into effect in January.

Please see after the jump for DART's most recent presentation on the health benefit proposals.

[DART presentation on Employee Health Benefits Equalization](#) by [The Dallas Morning News](#)

MORE IN DART

[DART takes another look at second downtown Dallas line, even though project remains a long ways off](#)

Dallas Area Rapid Transit is once again evaluating possible paths for a second downtown Dallas line, even though it will...



Johnsenfuego 1 day ago

Is this just for gay, lesbian, transgender or does it include a man and woman living together?

Reply 0



Bushwood Smithie 2 days ago

I know I'm tilting at windmills here, but how about the DART board watch out for the taxpayers just this once? Instead of spending more money on benefits, how about they put everyone on equal footing by removing benefits for family members and only paying the minimum necessary for actual employees?

Reply [2 replies](#) -2



Tod Grimes 2 days ago

Here goes the fare increases again!

Reply [1 reply](#) 0



David Hardt 2 days ago

OH PLEASE, like Tod Grimes would take DART, he would be too afraid diversity may rub off on him.

Reply 0



David Hardt 2 days ago

I hope DART makes the right decision and gives LGBT families the same rights as heterosexual families.

Reply [2 replies](#) -2



Hyper 2 days ago

They already have the same right. This is America. The home of the free!

Reply [1 reply](#) +2



David Hardt 2 days ago

Hyper, what American do you live in? Gay couples can't file joint tax returns, so when you and your spouse file your tax return, you pay a family tax rate, gay couples have to pay higher single tax rates. Gay couples also can't visit each other in the hospital if one is sick, gay people don't have survivor benefits if they lose their spouse.

There are thousands of things that heterosexual couples get federally guaranteed that gay couples can't. So apparently you need to do your home work before you say this nation is equal.

Reply -1



Hyper 2 days ago

pet benefits next?

Reply [4 replies](#) 0



David Hardt 2 days ago

How is giving a committed married gay couple the same benefits as a heterosexual couple going to lead to "pet benefits" seriously, is there something wrong with you?

Reply [3 replies](#) -2



Hyper 2 days ago

alot of people look at thier pets as their children/family. Why not? There would be more support for this idea than GLBT.

Reply [2 replies](#) +2



John Myroro 2 days ago

So you're saying that the human children and spouses in gay and lesbian families are the

equivalent of animals in other families? I'm tempted to go all Godwin on you.

Reply

0



David Hardt 2 days ago

wow, that is all I can say, wow. I fear for the future of our great nation.

Reply

-1



Gregg Welpe 2 days ago

Good for DART in moving forward to truly be an equal opportunity employer for all of their GLBT employees. Equality is a value that should be available to all workers.....

Reply

0

DALLASNEWS

- Home
- Blogs
- Business
- eBooks
- Entertainment
- Investigations
- Life
- Local
- Nation & World
- Opinion
- Sports
- Traffic
- Weather
- Autos
- Real estate
- Jobs
- Shopping
- Classifieds
- Business listings
- Legal notices
- Obituaries
- Pets
-
- Site map

ADVERTISING

- View ads
- Place a Classified ad
- Media kit
- Special sections

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

- Home delivery
- Pay bill
- Vacation stop

CONTACT US

- Careers
- New s tips
- 2013 DMN Intern Program
- Feedback/questions

NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

- DMN story archive
- Obituary archive
- 1885-1982 archive

CELEBRATIONS

- Submit a Celebration ad
- View Celebration ads

RELATED SITES

- AIDiaTX.com
- FDLuxe.com
- GuideLive.com
- neighborsgo.com
- eEdition
- Parade
- Pegasusnew s.com
- DentonRC.com
- Local business listings
- The Texas Wedding Guide